



ENJOYING THE SEASON



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Toni Hernandez helps her daughter, 4-year-old Amber, gather Easter eggs during the second annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. They were one of hundreds of families that turned out to hunt the plastic eggs, which were filled with everything from candy to coupons from local merchants.

Commissioners mull proposed jail facility, pact for senior center

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are set to meet once again Monday morning, with ongoing efforts to design a new jail facility and the Spring City Senior Citizen Center.

Monday's agenda calls for a presentation by County Auditor Jackie Olson, who is expected to present commissioners with invoices and purchase requests. Olson is also expected to discuss ongoing efforts to sort out fiscal responsibilities at the county run Spring City Senior Citizen Center.

According to commissioner Jerry Kilgore, the Senior Center and the 30-year-old agreement between the city and county for upkeep and management of the building will be discussed during the court's Monday meeting.

"There are a lot of questions that have to be answered at this point about the center," said Kilgore. "It's on the Airpark, so the building belongs to the city. We have to try to come to some sort of agreement on what

responsibilities each entity will take care of.

"An agreement between the city and county was signed some time in the 1970s, and we're going to have to look at that agreement and update it. We want to get these things down and concrete."

County Treasurer Teresa Thomas is expected to present personnel considerations.

County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson is also expected to speak during the meeting, presenting pipeline crossings and road maintenance.

County Construction Administrator Phil Furqueron is slated to discuss renovations at the county library and courthouse, as well as the ongoing effort to design a new county jail facility.

And as the case has been for the last two months, discussion concerning a new county jail facility is also on the meeting agenda.

The meeting is expected to get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

Lawmakers roll dice on gambling again

Say it could be solution to school finance system

By BRANDI GRISSOM

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — A gambling showdown is brewing in the Texas statehouse.

Some lawmakers are eyeing slot machines and casino-style gambling to haul in a jackpot for the state's troubled school finance system.

Although conservative legislators defeated a slot machine measure last year, chiding it as promotion of a social ill, the powerful gambling lobby hasn't let up. This time, they say, lady luck seems to be on their side.

But gambling opponents aren't folding just yet. Gambling in Texas, they say, is a devil in disguise that will create more problems than it solves: addiction, crime and bankruptcy, for starters.

Last year a Texas judge ruled the state's \$30 billion education funding system "financially inefficient, inadequate and unsuitable" and set an October deadline for reform. Fixing the system is the priority this legislative session.

Rep. Jim Pitts of Waxahachie, the Republican chairman of the House budget-writing committee, has said gambling revenue may be the only way Texas can find new cash for education.

See GAMBLING, Page 3A



KRT photo/Phil Masturzo, Akron Beacon Journal

Martin Golembiewski keeps an eye on the blackjack table at the Ohio Gaming College in Macedonia, Ohio. Some Texas lawmakers see gambling as a solution to the state's troubled school finance system.

Gambling bills

More than 20 bills have been filed to create different forms of gambling in Texas. A sampling of the proposals:

— HB 897 by Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, allows video lottery terminals for horse or greyhound racetracks and recognized Indian tribes.

— HB 1337 by Rep. Kino Flores, D-Mission, allows casino gambling in cities and counties if local voters approve it.

— SB 1097 by Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, allows the Texas Lottery Commission to issue licenses for video lottery terminals to applicants in cities or counties where voters have approved the machines.

— SB 1326 by Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria, allows local voters to create county gaming districts where video lottery terminals could be operated. Requires a majority vote of the House and Senate.

— Senate Joint Resolution 18 by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would create 12 major casino-anchored destinations throughout the state, abolish the Texas Lottery Commission and the Texas Racing Commission and create a Texas Gaming Commission.

* Requires a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate and approval by voters.

Source: The Associated Press

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SUNRISE SERVICE

The Bible states that Jesus rose from the dead before sunrise on Easter. Ever since, many have found dawn on Easter Sunday the perfect time to celebrate the seminal event of Christianity.

Things will be no different locally, as the annual interdenominational Community Sunrise Service will be held at 6:45 a.m. Sunday at the Big Spring Amphitheater.

The service will feature nine ministers speaking on variations of the subject, "God So Loved The World."

GOOD NEIGHBORS



Howard County has a lot of good folks and in this edition, we tell you about a couple of dozen of them in our annual special edition, Good Neighbors, Yours Mine and Ours.

AMERICAN PROFILE



Best-selling novelist Nora Roberts, who has sold more than 250 million copies of her nearly 150 books, continues to adhere

to a highly disciplined writing schedule in her rural Keedysville, Md.,



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Obituaries

Dean Carroll Barriball Jr.



Dean Carroll Barriball Jr., 65, of Big Spring, passed away on Thursday, March 24, 2005, at his home with all his loved ones surrounding him. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel, with the Rev. Jim Liggett, pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, officiating.

Dean was born on June 29, 1939, in Bedford, Ohio, to Dean Sr. and Margaret Barriball and married Janice R. Wallis on Aug. 15, 1959, in Shortlands, Bromley, Kent, England.

He was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Air Force Sergeant's Association.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 45 years, Janice Barriball of Big Spring; his two much-loved children, Dean Barriball III and Mandy Collins and her husband, Glenn; and three granddaughters, Destiny, Haley and Shelby Collins. He is also survived by his sister, Joan and her husband, Bill Raymond, their daughter, Leslie and husband, Jim Leffler; his Aunt Marion; brother-in-law, Paul A. Wallis and wife, Pam, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Margie Martell.

Dean's chosen careers were the United States Air Force for 20 years, postal worker and devoted, loving nurse for numerous years. He excelled in all of his chosen careers and made many, many friends who loved him.

Dean was a loving, genteel, patient husband and father. He gave his all to his family, and as Mandy has said, "What do you say when the most wonderful man in the world has gone?" You were our love, our friend and our hero, and all of us are so proud to call you husband, Daddy and our friend. It was our honor to be part of your family and life and know each of us held such a special place in your heart.

Wait for me my darling husband and friend, you gave me two beautiful gifts with Dean and Mandy who have made us so very proud always.

You always made all of us feel so cherished and loved, Dean, you were the wind beneath my wings, lifting me up and giving me the love, courage and faith I needed during dark and sad times. You always filled our home with love, laughter and fun with your funny jokes and happiness.

Sleep well my precious, you were my precious, precious diamond who always shown brighter than the brightest star.

Sweet dreams my love, you'll be in hearts and lives forever, your loving wife, Jan, your daughter, (Baby Girl) Mandy and your son, Dean III.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the National Ataxia Foundation, Spinocerebellar Ataxia Research, 2600 Fernbrook Lane, Suite 119, Minneapolis, Minn. 55447.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday:

- **DAVID RIOS**, 19, 715 Creighton St., was arrested on local warrants.
- **RACHEL ELIZABETH GEE**, 17, 2809 Coronado, was arrested on a charge of racing on a roadway.
- **YOLANDA RAMOS BOOTH**, 39, 1408 Robin St., was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported on the 1500 block of 17th Street.
- **ASSAULT** was reported on the 2600 block of Langley Drive.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported on the 200 block of Marcy Drive.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED/INVALID** was reported on the 300 block of FM 700.
- **THEFT** was reported on the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway and the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-8-10-17.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Saturday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-6

Norman Eugene Miller



Norman Eugene "Gene" Miller, 65, passed away Thursday, March 24, 2005, at his residence. He was born July 16, 1939, to William LeRoy Miller and Annie Mae Roquemore in Valdosta, Ga. Norman married Jo Ann Lane on Feb. 10, 1962 in Big Spring. He served his country in the U. S. Air Force for 23 years, later retiring at the rank of master sergeant. Later he worked for the Texas Commerce Bank/San Angelo National Bank for 15 years and for Shannon Clinic for five years.

Norman was preceded in death by his parents, William LeRoy and Annie Mae Miller; one brother, Grover A. Miller. He is survived by his loving wife, JoAnn Miller of San Angelo; daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Michael Conklin of San Angelo; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Lisa Miller of Hurst; brother and sister-in-law, William R. "Bill" and Anita Miller of Franklin, NC; and four grandchildren, Reina, Schyler, Kayleigh and Mitchell.

Funeral service will be 10 a.m. Monday March 28, 2005, at Johnson's Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. M.W. "Skip" Hill II officiating. Military graveside services will immediately follow at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Second Baptist Church of San Angelo or to Hospice of San Angelo.

Paid obituary

Jackie 'Bob' May

Jackie "Bob" May, 67, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 24, 2005, at his residence. Memorial services were 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26, 2005, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness with Gary Bryant officiating.

He was born Dec. 19, 1937, in Edwardsport, Ind., and married Linda Brown Sept. 30, 1973, in Ukiah, Calif. He was a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness. He had lived in the community for four years.

Survivors include his wife, Linda May of Big Spring; four sons, Butch May, Joe May and Robin May, all of Indiana, and Justin May and his wife, Sarah of Big Spring; two daughters, Melissa May of Big Spring and Deena Reyes of Indiana; one sister, Betty Fields of Indiana; one brother, Stephen Faith of Big Spring; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one daughter, Mindy Ames.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday:

- **THEFT** was reported on the 2800 block of N. Birdwell Lane.
- **PUBLIC INTOXICATION** was reported on the 1600 block of N. FM 700.
- **INTOXICATED DRIVER** was reported on N. Highway 350.

Weather

Sunday...Decreasing clouds. Highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday...Sunny...Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 50.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Thursday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Support groups

SUNDAY
□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Reyes Ortega



Reyes Ortega, 88, died Thursday, March 24, 2005 in Uvalde Memorial Hospital. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 28, 2005, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Ken Dakin officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery.

He was born on Jan. 6, 1917, in Utopia and married Maria Lopez in D'Hanis.

He is survived by his wife, Maria, of Uvalde; two sons, Frank Ortega, of Big Spring, and Jerry Ortega, of Uvalde; his sister, Josefa Silva, of Devine; one grandchild; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Carlos Ortega Sr., Genobebo Ortega, and Pantaleon Ortega; and two sisters, Paula Diaz and Salome Oliver.

Arrangements under the direction of Rushing-Estes-Knowles Mortuary, Uvalde.

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

SUNDAY

• Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. in the Amphitheatre in Comanche Trail Park.

MONDAY

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

• Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center at the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• West Texas Pachyderms meet at noon in the Big Spring Country Club. Jason Moore, who is in his third term as state chairman of Young Republicans is the scheduled speaker. All interested persons are invited to attend.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

A special tour for a special event.

BirthPlace Tour: Monday, April 4 at 7:00pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life. Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, *Beautiful Beginnings*. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives. The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and *Beautiful Beginnings* in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

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For other families, protests outside Schiavo hospice add grief

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (AP) — Jennifer Johnson, barefoot and in her pajamas, ran to her grandfather's bedside once a hospice worker said his death was moments away. She got there — one minute too late.

Johnson said the chaos outside the hospice where Terri Schiavo is dying kept her from saying goodbye. When Johnson arrived, a police officer demanded identification; she had none. And after a hospice employee cleared her, another officer halted her for a search with a metal detector.

The delays lasted three to four minutes — the last of her grandfather's life.

"It's a terrible, extra obstacle to put in front of a family. ... Everything is about Schiavo," Johnson said. "It's all about her and in my family's case, it cost us dearly."

Woodside Hospice has 70 patients besides Schiavo, whose parents are desperately trying to have her feeding tube reconnected. Dozens of protesters have arrived from across the nation since the tube was removed March 18, and at least 15 have been arrested, prompting a police barricade around the facility and unprecedented security.

Family members visiting patients must pass through a police checkpoint to park, then show identification outside the door before another security screening inside. They also must walk by scores of signs decrying Schiavo's "crucifixion," "torture," and "starvation," plus navigate around hordes of media who have been camped outside.

"To have to maneuver through all of this and have a hostile environment outside when all they want is peace and quiet and to enjoy those few days they have left with a loved one is a horror," said Dr. Morton Getz, executive director of Douglas Gardens Hospice in Miami.

Getz said many people with a family member in a hospice have to make the same excruciating decision that courts have made for Schiavo.

"It's causing a lot of grief and questions in their own mind on whether they did the right thing," he said. "It's unconscionable to have a family member to be near the end stages of life and to get there, you have to walk through signs that say 'Murderer.'"

Most protesters direct their signs and their



KRT photo/Autumn Cruz, Orlando Sentinel
Josie Keys, 14, of Burnet, Texas, is handcuffed by police officers in front of Woodside Hospice in Penellas Park, Fla. She and other members of her family were arrested for trespassing.

chants against the courts and Michael Schiavo, Terri's husband, who insists she would not want to be kept alive artificially.

But walking through a hostile environment can only add stress to what's already an emotionally draining situation.

"It probably has the same psychological effect on the residents' families as it does on someone who is walking into an abortion clinic and facing signs and aggressive

behavior," said Elizabeth Foley, a Florida International University law professor who specializes in bioethics.

Over the past few days, as Schiavo's parents' attempts to have their daughter's feeding tube reinserted repeatedly failed, signs outside the hospice have grown more desperate. Doctors have said Schiavo would probably die within a week or two of the feeding tube being removed.

Messages compare Michael Schiavo to Scott Peterson, convicted of killing his wife and unborn child in California, and John Evander Couey, who allegedly murdered a 9-year-old girl in Homosassa.

One woman in a wheelchair regularly moves up and down sidewalks in front of the hospice yelling in a megaphone, "We're disabled, not disposable!" and "Terri is a person, not a vegetable!"

Relatives of hospice residents say the clamor — intended to rattle Michael Schiavo — rattles their patience.

"It's a real pain in the neck," said Bill Douglass, whose mother-in-law is a resident. He said the only consolation is that she is "oblivious" to the outside scene.

Police and hospice officials say they are trying to minimize the intrusion on hospice residents and their families, and that the security measures are meant to protect the privacy and safety of all residents, not just Schiavo.

Johnson, 24, said her 73-year-old grandfather, Thomas Bone, was restricted from moving freely around the hospice grounds during his final

days. He died just hours after Terri Schiavo's feeding tube was removed and protests intensified.

"They've taken away hospice's greatest quality, that it is peaceful and serene and quiet and calming — and it's not fair," Johnson said.

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Hostage (R)
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Fri. & Sat. 9:30 Sat. & Sun. 2:10
The Pacifier (PG)
Daily: 5:00 & 7:30
Fri. & Sat. 10:00 Sat. & Sun. 2:30
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GAMBLING

Continued from Page 1A

beyond the \$3 billion already planned.

There have been other attempts over the past decade to bring casino gambling to Texas. Republican Gov. Rick Perry, during the 2004 special session to deal with school finance, touted slots — called video lottery terminals — as a way to generate about \$1 billion for education while regulating gambling.

Now lawmakers are being unduly influenced by high-paid gambling lobbyists, said Suzii Paynter, director of public policy for the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

For every \$1 in taxes from gambling, Paynter said, Texas will spend \$3 to treat its side effects.

"Anybody who has a serious thought about securing finances for Texas is going to look beyond something like gambling," she said.

She points to the current Texas lottery system and myriad problems in other states that recently legalized gambling.

Casino gambling came to Ledyard, Conn., in 1992 under a gaming compact signed by then-governor

Lowell Weicker Jr. In 2001, the city of Ledyard, according to a report from Mayor Wesley Johnson, got \$689,000 in casino tax revenue. It shelled out more than \$2 million for crime, traffic enforcement, social services and infrastructure.

"This is all glitter, and it doesn't fulfill the promise," Paynter said.

Babe Schwartz is a former state lawmaker turned lobbyist from Galveston. He represents the Landry's Restaurant chain, whose owner recently purchased the Golden Nugget casino in Las Vegas. Tilman Fertitta, Landry's chief executive, is the only Texan with a major casino license, Schwartz said.

Gambling proponents so far have about 90 of 100 House votes needed to pass a constitutional amendment allowing voters to decide whether to bring slots to Texas, Schwartz said. The other 10, he said, won't be difficult to corral.

Wrangling the votes of senators is a bigger challenge, Schwartz said, because they represent many more people and many types of constituents.

Schwartz said first-class casinos would keep more Texans' money in state and probably bring in tourist dollars.

"People who gamble

gamble everywhere," he said. "You just have to make a place of business an attractive attraction."

Fort Worth Republican Rep. Charlie Geren said his plan to bring Vegas-style casinos cities would help Texas cities bring in conventions and would create thousands of jobs.

"We're not just talking about revenue derived from gambling itself," Geren said. "It's an economic development tool."

While Republican leaders Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick have supported measures to allow video slot machines at racetracks, none have anted up for casino proposals.

House members opposed to any form of gambling are already lining up their hand. Rep. Charlie Howard, R-Sugar Land, drafted a letter urging lawmakers to vote against gambling one month into the 140-day session. A similar petition helped defeat the measure in 2004.

Schwartz said parties on both sides of the issue will be fighting for votes.

"My experience has been that people who are against gaming, vote against gaming," Schwartz said. "The fact there's a carrot on the end of the stick doesn't persuade anybody with convictions."

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Keep Big Spring Beautiful First Annual Spring Clean Community-wide Flea Market April 23, 2005*

Come join us at the east end of the Big Spring Mall for an exciting fundraiser. Learn more about our community while making money and meeting friends.

Bring your gifts, crafts and recycled items to the Big Spring Mall Parking lot, Saturday, April 23, 2005. Flea Market hours are from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Space availability is limited. Booth prices are: 10X10 @ \$25, 12X12 @ \$45 and 24X12 @ \$65. For an application, please mail your stamped, self-addressed envelope to Keep Big Spring Beautiful (KBSB), P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring, TX 79721 or you may complete the application in your Big Spring Herald and mail with your check or money order to KBSB, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring, TX 79721. You may also pick up an application at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 West Third Street.

*Rain Date May 7, 2005

Keep Big Spring Beautiful
First Annual Spring Clean Community-wide Flea Market
April 23, 2005*

I understand there will be no sale or display of pornography, firearms, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia

I plan to display for sale _____

I understand that I am responsible for any set up/take down which includes all tables, chairs, umbrellas, canopies, etc.

I understand that I am responsible for the complete clean up of the area assigned to me for my use.

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*Rain Date Saturday, May 7, 2005

EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let us remember what this holiday is truly all about

This weekend we celebrate Easter. But we need to remember what this holiday is a holy day and we definitely need to take heed of what it is really about.

Because this holiday is not about the Easter bunny; or Easter baskets filled with plastic grass; those pastel foil-covered chocolate candies or jelly beans; not even those dyed Easter eggs.

No, at Easter we celebrate the historical fact that nearly 2,000 years ago a man died, lay in a grave for three days and then got up and began walking around again, telling people that God loves them.

But more than that, he died perhaps the most brutal and cruel death ancient man knew — crucifixion. He died and was resurrected so that we might be saved from our sins and have eternal life.

Easter should be the most openly joyful time of celebration of the year for Christians.

After all, this holiday is a living expression of the hope that God has given the world, thanks to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For those of us who believe, there can be no more holy a day.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we find our way for life through You, Lord, and Your word.

Amen

The great unknown: Schiavo's wishes

I've heard the clamor as to why Terri Schiavo must die. No one, it is said, would want to live like her. Her parents, Robert and Mary Schindler, are religious fanatics. Many of her so-called supporters are "pro-life" zealots. Evil GOP geniuses passed a special law to help her live. And so, she must die.

I've followed this poignant case for two years. And my husband served at one time as an unpaid informal adviser to the Schindlers. I've heard the arguments, and they often start with: No one would want to live like that.

After all, this case is supposed to be about Terri's "right to die," even though no one knows for sure that she wants to die. She never wrote a living will or other document asserting as much. A court decided that she would want to die, based on casual remarks she made to her husband Michael and his brother and sister.

She told them she would never want to be kept alive by machines. I hate to insert facts here, but it is a fact that a feeding tube is not a machine.

Yet somehow the courts found that those casual comments have the force of a legal document — and apply to a feeding tube, when they were meant for a respirator.

In so ruling, a judge also ignored claims made by Michael Schiavo when he sued the hospital that first treated Terri in 1990 for \$16 million for failing to detect her potassium imbalance.

As Newsday reported in 2003, he won \$300,000 for himself for loss of consortium and \$700,000 for his wife — based on the presumption that Michael would care for Terri for the rest of her life.

It was not until 1998 that Michael Schiavo acted on the basis of his wife's stated wish not to live on life support.

Here's another slogan: A husband has a right to determine a wife's fate. It doesn't matter if he has a conflict — in this case, two children sired by a woman he calls his fiancée — he still has a supreme right over Terri's fate.

Another reported fact: Michael Schiavo won't approve new medical tests, although Terri is said to have had them years ago.

Those who argue that Terri Schiavo should die note that her doctors say her prognosis is hopeless. Doctors are always right, correct? There is the argument that the courts have adjudicated on this and sided with the husband. That's why the Schindlers and Republicans compare Schiavo to death-row defendants. The courts keep finding them guilty, and their lawyers keep filing appeals, because there should be no doubt as to the defendant's guilt and access to a fair trial.

If the law is going to give the benefit of the doubt to convicted killers, it makes sense to extend it to a woman whose only crime is that she is disabled.

OK, I'll take a deep breath and break from the polemics. This is a complicated case, and people of good faith can disagree. This involves a heart-wrenching decision that no one would take lightly.

Do I have problems with Congress passing a law for one person? Do I believe it is possible that Michael Schiavo, who did go to great lengths early on trying to help his wife, still has the best interests of Terri in mind? Do I want the government to stay out of end-of-life decisions that families are forced to make at a painful, raw time in their lives? Was I appalled when I heard Bob Schindler say on TV that he told his daughter, who is starving, he

would "take her out for a little ride, get her some breakfast?" Yes, yes, yes and of course.

I also don't enjoy watching the Schindlers' attorneys make silly legal claims in a desperate attempt to entice the federal court to change course, when it is clear to me that the courts, federal and state, are going to stick to their guns, as they have the power to do.

But spare me the rhetoric about Republicans being hypocrites on states' rights — fresh from the mouths of Democrats who don't want to let Alaskans drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, who don't want states to determine their own gun-control laws and couldn't wait for the feds to storm the home of the Miami family of Elian Gonzalez.

Let me also say that Congress — with Democratic votes, I'll add — didn't pass a law requiring that the feeding tube be reinserted in Terri Schiavo. It passed a law handing the case on to federal courts.

I'm no fan of Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas. But the House majority leader is right in this case. It's not clear Terri Schiavo would want to die. A husband does not — in my book — have an absolute right to withdraw life-sustaining treatment for his wife.

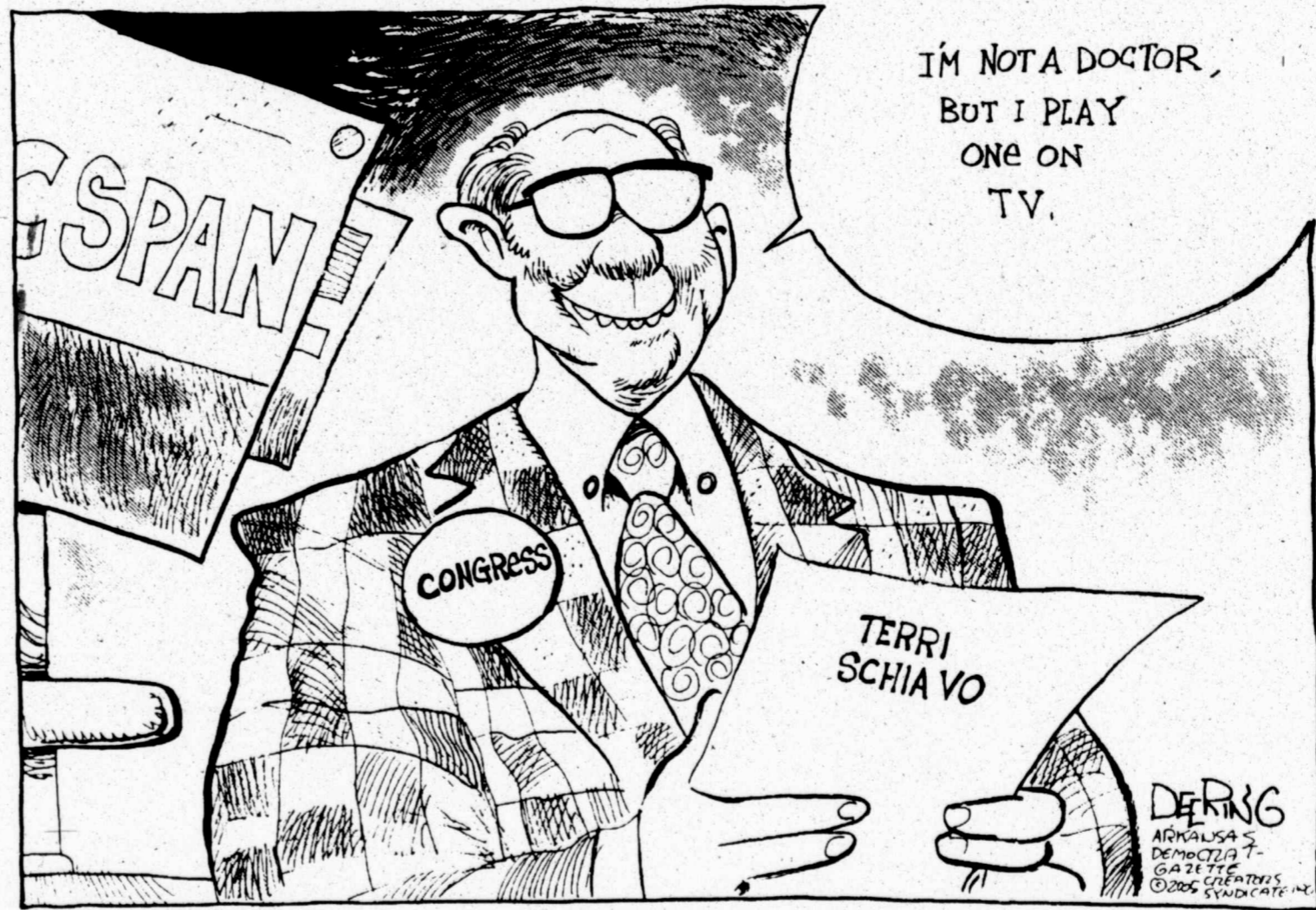
I wish the courts had ruled in Terri Schiavo's favor, even as I accept the fact that they have not and likely will not. It is possible, after all, that Terri Schiavo wants to die. It's just too bad that she will die, regardless of whether she wanted to or not.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



Inside report: Divided black caucus; Hillary and Kay bailey

Nearly half of the Congressional Black Caucus members who voted in the House on the Terri Schiavo case last weekend supported the Republican-sponsored bill, but none participated in the debate and only one put a statement on his website.

Nine voted yes, 13 voted no, and 18 were not present. Supporters included such prominent African-American congressmen as Harold Ford of Tennessee and Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois. They all kept quiet about it except for Albert Wynn of Maryland.



ROBERT NOVAK

While he said nothing during House debate, Wynn's statement on his website said that while the case should not have been brought before Congress, he added that it had become "a question of conscience." In the absence of a living will, he said, "Congress should afford Ms. Schiavo the opportunity to continue receiving life-saving sustenance."

Republican insiders say their fears have been realized that Sen. Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina would not be sufficiently aggressive as Senate

Republican campaign chairman in recruiting candidates for 2006.

Rep. Candice Miller, the strongest Republican to challenge Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow in Michigan, has ruled out making the race. No strong candidate has been found to challenge Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson in overwhelmingly Republican Nebraska. Sen. Hillary Clinton appears uncontested in New York. The Republicans face potentially messy primary races in Florida and Tennessee, without a winner in sight.

Dole's Democratic counterpart, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, has guaranteed a virtually uncontested primary in Pennsylvania for the strongest Democratic candidate, State Treasurer Bob Casey Jr., against Senate Republican Conference Chairman Rick Santorum.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, the influential vice chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, faces dangers of being too chummy with Sen. Hillary Clinton.

Their appearances overlapped a few minutes during a March 3 event at the Sewall-Belmont women's history museum in Washington. "I am delighted that Kay is my partner on so many important fronts," said Clinton. The

two senators twice embraced and kissed each other.

All this was taped by two men sent to the event by Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who is trying to discourage Hutchison from challenging him in next year's Republican primary. The resulting 45-second video has been distributed to Texas conservatives via e-mail.

Left-wing intellectuals will conduct a major academic conference at the City University of New York (CUNY) April 29-30 titled "Examining the Real Agenda of the Religious Far Right." The event is co-sponsored by tax-supported CUNY and the New York Open Center.

Skipp Porteous, a former Pentecostal minister, is scheduled to lecture on the "Christian Jihad." He has written online: "Have I rejected God? No. Man created God in his own image. I reject that image."

Other lectures listed include, "Religion and Secrecy in the Bush Administration," "On the Psychology and Theocracy of George W. Bush: Reflections in a Culture of Fear," and "Fundamentalism: The Fear and the Rage."

Eight of the District of Columbia City Council's 13 members want to disinvite

George W. Bush from throwing out the first ball when Major League Baseball returns to Washington April 14 for the first time since 1971.

The resolution sponsored by the eight Council members does not mention President Bush but has him in mind by asserting that "a ceremonial first pitch delivered by someone who opposes District voting rights will undermine efforts to secure full District voting rights in the United States Congress." It suggests instead that first ball honors go to Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District's non-voting delegate in Congress.

The resolution is opposed by Mayor Anthony Williams, who is a strong advocate of D.C. voting rights but invited Bush for the traditional presidential first pitch. Williams also led the fight to return baseball to Washington. The resolution's chief sponsor is Councilman David Catania, a Republican-turned-independent. Catania opposed the stadium-financing arrangement, crafted by Williams, that was necessary to get baseball back.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Stanton

By STEVE REAG
Staff Writer

Stanton High placed first and High School this District 4-2A A Spring Meet Hawley Monday Wednesday.

Stanton scooped points to earn top honors. Colorado High School was totaling 248 points Coahoma was 229 points.

In News Brandon Tabitha Med Taylor Rainey top three spot. Kelsey Coggin fourth.

Stanton had sweep of its Computer Science Matthew Iret Garlington an Rosa taking the places. Daniel I of Stanton, placed the category.

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HUNDREDS JOIN IN COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT AT VETERANS HOME



Hundreds of children filled the grounds at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home Friday for the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Organizers placed 20,000 eggs for children in two age groups to collect. Local businesses helped by donating coupons to put in the eggs.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Stanton takes first, Coahoma third at 4-2A academic meet

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Stanton High School placed first and Coahoma High School third at the District 4-2A Academics Spring Meet held in Hawley Monday through Wednesday.

Stanton scored 281 points to earn top school honors. Colorado City High School was second, totaling 248 points, while Coahoma was third with 229 points.

In News Writing, Brandon Gressett, Tabitha Medina and Taylor Rainey swept the top three spots, respectively, while Stanton's Kelsey Coggins placed fourth.

Stanton had a 1-2-3 sweep of its own in Computer Science, with Matthew Ireton, Will Garlington and Ismeal Rosa taking the top three places. Daniel Lopez, also of Stanton, placed sixth in the category.

CHS claimed three of the top four places in Editorial Writing. Logan Stone placed first, followed by Stanton's Michael Teveni, and Sarah Dunn and Callie Paige, both of Coahoma.

Kirk Canada claimed another first place finish for Stanton when he won in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate category. Lauren Yeater of Coahoma also had an individual first-place finish, winning in Science.

In team events, Stanton placed first in Computer Science and Science, while sweeping the top three spots in Cross Examination Debate. Stanton also placed second in Literary Criticism and Speech.

Also in team competition, Coahoma won the Journalism competition, and placed second in Current Issues, Number Sense, Science and Spelling and Vocabulary.

Other top Stanton and

Coahoma finishers were:
• Accounting — Adriana Rodriguez, Coahoma, fifth; and Cheyenne Grice, Coahoma, sixth.

• Current Issues — Wade Eckert, Stanton, fifth.

• Computer Applications — Traci Carr, Stanton, second; Colby Ringener, Stanton, fourth; and Anna Rosa Delgado, Stanton, sixth.

• Computer Science — Daniel Lopez, Stanton, sixth.

• Feature Writing — Kelsey Coggins, Stanton, third; Brandon Gressett, Coahoma, fourth; and Danielle Dickerson, Coahoma, sixth.

• Headline Writing — Brennan Harp, Stanton, second; Ashley Gutierrez, Stanton, third; Danielle Dickerson, Coahoma, fifth; and Logan Stone, Coahoma, sixth.

• Informative Speaking — Carly Louder, Stanton, fourth; and Stormie Dugan, Stanton, sixth.

• Literary Criticism — Jessica Stovall, Stanton, second; Ethan Higgenbotham, Stanton, fourth.

• Number Sense — Simon Stolarczyk, Coahoma, fifth.

• Persuasive Speaking — Rebecca McEndree, Coahoma, third; Rachel Eckert, Stanton, fifth.

• Poetry Interpretation — Rachel Eckert, Stanton,

fifth; Elizabeth Conley, Coahoma, sixth.

• Prose Interpretation — Eric Barton, Coahoma, second; LaTisha McCartney, Coahoma, third.

• Ready Writing — Sarah Dunn, Coahoma, second; Mallory Cotton, Stanton, fourth; Ethan Higgenbotham, Stanton, fifth.

• Science — Kirk

Canada, Stanton, second; Laura Teveni, Stanton, fifth.

The top three finishers in each competition advance to the UIL regional meet, scheduled for April 23 in Abilene.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

EARLY START DATE WAIVER REQUEST FOR GLASSCOCK CO. ISD

Early Start Date Waiver Request for Glasscock County ISD as required by Texas Education Code (TEC) 25.0811 (1st day of school in Texas) that passed by the 77th Legislature-Glasscock County ISD gives notice to all parents, patrons, faculty, staff and students of its intention to apply to the Texas Education Agency for a calendar waiver for its starting date for the 2005-2006 school year so that students will start back to school five (5) days earlier than was established by TEC 25.0811. The intent of requesting this school calendar waiver from the Texas Education Agency is that all students in the Glasscock County Independent School District will begin classes on Monday, August 15, 2005, instead of Monday, August 22, 2005. The school district will conduct a public hearing for all interested patrons of the district at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 11, 2005, in the Glasscock County ISD boardroom located on the Glasscock County Campus. For any information concerning this waiver, please contact Steve Long, Superintendent, at (432) 354-2230.

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In conjunction with National Nurses' Week, May 6 - May 12, we're paying tribute to ALL our nurses. We'd like to thank them for their compassion, dedication and support of our patients. Their efforts and our entire hospital team enable us to provide quality healthcare service right here in our community.

If you have received healthcare (inpatient or outpatient) in the last two years from our hospital and you have a nurse whom you want to thank for going the extra mile, we encourage you to nominate him or her for the Patient Choice Award. It's simple - just e-mail, mail or fax your nomination by April 23. Thanks for your support.

Include in your nomination: Attention: Mary Collins, Patient Choice Award, your name, address and phone number, nurse's name and your reason for nomination.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Toddler dies after being found
in pool at unlicensed daycare

COPPERAS COVE (AP) — A Central Texas toddler who was found in a pool at an unlicensed home daycare died Friday morning.

The 18-month-old had been in serious condition at a Temple Hospital after being found in the backyard pool Wednesday. Copperas Cove police said they believe the child walked out of the home through a back door and fell into the pool.

Officers arrested a woman who was in charge of the toddler at the scene Wednesday. Kimberly Ann Lloyd, 37, was charged with injury to a child. She was jailed Friday on \$50,000 bail.

Seven children, ages 18 months to four years, were being cared for in the home when the toddler was found, police told Temple television station KCEN.

Copperas Cove is located about 60 miles northwest of Austin.

Ten workers injured in steel structure collapse

RICHARDSON (AP) — Ten workers were injured Friday when the second floor of a building under construction collapsed at a Texas Instruments research center, officials said.

The workers were injured as concrete was being poured, interim Richardson Fire Chief Alan Palomba said. The accident happened at the site of a \$3 billion wafer-fabricating plant project that TI is building jointly with the University of Texas at Dallas.

The injuries were not serious and included bruises,

cuts and fractures.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration sent investigators to the accident site because at least three workers were hurt, agency spokeswoman Elizabeth Todd said.

Investigators have six months to determine whether the workers complied with safety laws. Any penalties would depend on the investigation's results and the severity of the accident, she said.

Texan convicted of stealing
documents gets prison sentence

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A Texas man convicted of stealing historic documents from the University of Arizona and the Arizona Historical Society has been sentenced to one year in prison.

Paul H. Northrop, 62, of El Paso, was sentenced Thursday in U.S. District Court in Tucson.

He was found guilty by a federal jury in March 2004 on four counts of theft of objects of cultural heritage and two counts of interstate transportation of stolen goods.

The stolen documents, mostly dating between 1841 and 1927, included letters between military officials involved in the campaigns against Geronimo.

One document — dated Jan. 22, 1885 — was a letter from Gen. George Crook to Lt. Charles B. Gatewood in 1885 while Army officers were chasing Geronimo.

Prosecutors said Northrop, a researcher, stole more than 100 documents from the UA library's special collections and the archives of the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson and then sold some of them to dealers across the country.

The FBI has recovered 55 of the historic documents stolen by Northrop so far, authorities said.

Texas company to drill in southwestern
Indiana for natural gas

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A Texas energy company is preparing to drill test wells in southwestern Indiana in hopes of extracting natural gas from the region's coal beds.

Natural gas is typically extracted from sandstone and limestone, but a recent spike in natural gas prices has made less productive sources of the gas more attractive for development, company officials said.

Gulf Energy Management Co., a subsidiary of Harken Energy Corp. of Dallas, recently signed an agreement with another Texas company to drill in southwestern Indiana for coal bed methane — a type of natural gas found in unmined coal reserves.

The company's agreement with Indiana Posey, a San Antonio-based partnership, calls for joint exploration and development of coal bed methane, a newspaper reported Friday.

About 400,000 acres within Posey, Gibson and Vanderburgh counties in the Evansville area are covered by the agreement, said Harvey Risien Jr., Indiana Posey's owner.

The technology capable of extracting natural gas from coal beds is relatively new and was developed over only the last 20 years, Risien said.

In coal-bed extraction, he said the natural gas is taken before the coal is mined.

Gulf Energy Management will pay the initial \$7.5 million for exploration and development of the project and receive about 54 percent of the net revenue the project produces.

The remainder goes to property owners and Indiana Posey, Risien said.

Bill seeks tougher penalties for child deaths

HOUSTON (AP) — Nine-month-old Lanya Smith's father was charged with a crime after she died recently from injuries consistent with shaken baby syndrome — but the charge wasn't murder.

Rather, it was injury to a child.

That's a common charge, prosecutors say, in cases where it's hard to prove a child was killed intentionally.

But state Rep. Bill Zedler, R-Arlington, has filed a bill that would allow prosecutors to charge people with murder of a child if their abusive actions result in death. And the law would not allow probation, which is possible under the charge of injury to a child.

"This is one of those technicalities in the law that very often gives people a loophole," Zedler said. "As I understand it, what this is doing is that it closes that loophole."

Jay Lapham, former chief of the Crimes Against Children unit in Tarrant County's

District Attorney's Office, said people who lose their temper and shake a child to death are often charged with injury to a child because it is a first-degree felony, with the punishment ranging from five to 99 years.

However, Lapham — a driving force behind Zedler's bill — said mourning families often take issue with an injury charge, saying it doesn't fit the crime.

"I've dealt with many families that are really offended by the idea that they have a child that is deceased, and I am charging injury to a child," he said. "They don't like that."

Harlingen resident Mark Dittman's 2-year-old daughter, Maggie, was shaken to death by a baby sitter in 1998. The baby sitter, charged with injury to a child, received a 10-year prison sentence.

"The thing with injury to a child, it equates a broken bone with a fatal attack," Dittman said. "It distinguishes nothing between the two."

Under the bill, deliber-

ate child abuse that results in the death of a child could lead to a charge of murder. The penalty would be 15 to 99 years or life in prison.

Harris County prosecutors said they could not comment on the bill because they were not familiar with it.

Under state law, the intentional murder of a child younger than 6 can result in a capital murder charge, punishable by life in prison or death.

Michael Jovonne Smith, 23, is charged with injury to a child in the March 5 death of Lanya Smith. Lanya died a day after she was hospitalized with head injuries that her father claimed were the result of a minor fall.

Authorities said Smith had been caring for the baby when her mother arrived and found the girl unresponsive at their apartment.

The infant was rushed to the hospital, where doctors said the girl had blunt force trauma to her head, a bruised eyelid, bleeding in her brain and retinal hemorrhaging.

Lawsuit accuses Curves founder of fraud, threats

WACO (AP) — A lawsuit seeking more than \$20 million accuses the founder of Curves International of defrauding seven people who sold franchises for the fast-growing chain of no-frills fitness clubs for women.

The plaintiffs claim they're due the money for helping Gary Heavin turn his Waco-based company into the world's No. 1 fitness center in terms of number of clubs.

Since the mid-1990s, Curves has grown to more than 8,400 franchises in all 50 states and 28 countries. One in every four fitness clubs in the United States is a Curves. By comparison, Gold's Gyms and Bally Total Fitness have about 1,000 facilities between them.

In the lawsuit filed this month in state district court in Waco, seven former friends and associates of Heavin allege they quit their jobs, mortgaged homes, maxed out credit cards and slept in their cars to help Heavin launch Curves in the early years on the promise he would share the wealth once the company took off.

Instead, they claim,

Heavin "changed the rules" and forced them to accept a fraction of the proceeds he promised them at the risk of being

fired. "This lawsuit is baseless," Curves spokeswoman Becky Frusher said.



The West Texas Ag Committee

Presents the

14th Annual West Texas Ag Expo

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
Tuesday, April 5, 2005
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Luncheon 11:45 a.m.

Guest Speaker:

Jimmy Clark

Deputy Chief of Staff &
Agricultural Representative for
Congressman Randy Neugebauer

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K: 5 yrs. old, on or before September 1, 2005

WHEN:

Monday, April 4 - Friday, April 8, 2005

TIME:

Mon: 8:30 am-6:30 pm

Tues.-Fri.: 8:30am-4:00pm

WHERE:

Elbow Elementary (Forsan ISD)

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3. Shot Records
4. Proof of Residence (utility bill)
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Authorities try to identify body; Man questioned in whereabouts of missing 10-year-old girl

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Police were investigating whether a body found Friday is that of a 10-year-old girl who authorities said vanished with a registered sex offender.

Cedar Rapids police canceled an Amber Alert for Jetseta Marrie Gage after the body was found in a rundown mobile home in a rural area near the small town of Kalona, about 45 miles south of Cedar Rapids. A positive identification of the body had not been made.

Roger Bentley, 37, a family acquaintance, was charged late Friday with felony child stealing and was being held in the Linn County Jail in Cedar Rapids. He is accused of taking Jetseta from her mother's house in nearby Cedar Rapids on Thursday night.

Johnson County Sheriff Lonny Pulkrabek said state criminologists were to work through the night processing the site where the body was discovered. He declined to share any more details of the inves-

tigation, and refused to answer questions.

According to state's Sex Offender Registry, Bentley was convicted in 1994 of lascivious acts with a child.

Police said he was working on the van of Jetseta's mother, Trena Gage, Thursday night before disappearing with the child.

Gage, who was away at the time taking a college course, said her 7-year-old son saw Bentley leave in his pickup with Jetseta. The children's grandmother also was at home.

"My mom gave my daughter her medicine and sent her to bed," Gage told KCRG-TV. "My son said he saw my daughter in the truck and he thought that she had permission" because the family have "known him for so long."

Gage said her mother, Teresa, later went to check on the child and she was gone. "She looked all over the house and she called me hysterical," Gage said.

Report: Officials exceeded H1-B visa limit by 10,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department approved 10,000 more applications for visas for high-tech and specialty workers than Congress permitted for this fiscal year.

The mistake was made with H1-B visas, available to foreigners with a bachelor's degree or higher who want to fill U.S. jobs in architecture, engineering, medicine, biotechnology and computer programming.

Only 65,000 H1-B visas are supposed to be given out this fiscal year, although Congress let the department exempt from the limit 20,000 foreigners with graduate degrees from American universities.

"It discourages me to hear that Congress' limit may have been ignored," Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said in a March 7 letter to Eduardo Aguirre, director of Citizenship and Immigration Services

in the Homeland Security Department. He has asked for an explanation and how the agency will prevent exceeding the limit again.

Agency spokesman Bill Strassberger said Friday a last minute surge in applications was responsible. The agency projects each year how many applications it can accept to stay within the limit. He said the agency doesn't actually know if it has hit the cap until it has finished approving applications.

The H1-B program is facing other problems. The agency has angered employers with its interpretation of the law last year to provide H1-B visas for foreigners with U.S. graduate degrees.

The exemptions were supposed to kick in March 9. But on March 8, the department said it would not restrict exemptions to applicants with graduate degrees.

Pope appears to the faithful via video at Good Friday procession

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Ailing Pope John Paul II rested up Saturday for Easter Sunday, when he is expected to address Roman Catholics publicly for the first time in two weeks.

The 84-year-old pontiff, recovering from surgery to improve his breathing, has missed nearly all of the Easter Week celebrations and Holy Saturday is a quiet day for the church.

The pope made a silent appearance in a series of televised cameo shots on Good Friday night. The shots showed him with his back to the camera in his private chapel as he watched the procession at the Colosseum.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Car bomb kills three U.S. troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A car bomb struck a U.S. military patrol Saturday in the Iraqi capital, killing two U.S. soldiers and injuring two others, and a Marine died in action in a restive central province, the military said.

Earlier military officials said they had discovered a 600-foot tunnel leading out of the main prison facility for detainees in Iraq. No one had escaped, said an Army spokeswoman, Maj. Flora Lee. She did not know when guards discovered the tunnel.

Camp Bucca holds 6,049 detainees, nearly two-thirds of all those in Iraq, Lee said late Friday. Situated near the southern city of Umm Qasr, it is one of three detainee facilities in Iraq.

A bucket cut from a water container and a shovel made of tent material were used to dig the tunnel, Lee said. The opening was under a floorboard of the compound and was concealed with dirt.

Authorities in charge of the compound realized a tunnel was under way after they found dirt in latrines and other places, Lee said.

Police confront looters in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — Police returned to the streets of Kyrgyzstan's capital to confront looters, and groups of stick-wielding young men hovered outside shops and offices — this time to guard them.

Saturday brought a semblance of calm to Bishkek, though gutted shopping centers and looted stores told of the mayhem that marred celebrations of the stunningly swift change of power.

"Everything was normal last night — better than the previous night," said Interior Ministry spokesman Nurdin Jangarayev. "We have calmed the people down."

Mobs roamed the streets late Friday, throwing stones at cars and seemingly seeking a repeat of the previous night, when the city was theirs and the unpopular President Askar Akayev had fled after 15 years in charge of this former Soviet republic in Central Asia.

But in contrast with the previous night there was a large law enforcement police presence, with sirens wailing and police barking for order through loudspeakers.

Taiwanese hold major protest against China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — About a million Taiwanese marched through the capital on Saturday at a rally protesting a new Chinese law that authorizes an attack on the island if it moves toward formal independence.

Hundreds of thousands assembled at 10 different areas in Taipei, with each route representing one of the articles of the anti-secession law. The marchers converged on the wide boulevard in front of the Presidential Office building.

"China is a violent country. We want nothing to do with it," said protester Wu Chao-hsiung, a carpenter from Taipei. "We have to insist on the freedom to

determine our own fate."

Beijing is worried that self-ruled Taiwan is drifting toward independence, and China's legislature recently passed a law codifying the use of military force against Taiwan if it seeks a permanent split. A civil war split the rivals 56 years ago.

"What do we want from China? Peace," lawmaker Bikhim Hsiao led the crowd in chanting.

Report: TSA misled on passenger data

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government investigation has found that the Transportation Security Administration misled the public about its role in obtaining personal information on 12 million airline passengers to test a new computerized, terrorist-screening system.

A report released Friday by Richard Skinner, acting inspector general of the Homeland Security Department, said the TSA had misinformed individuals, the media and Congress in 2003 and 2004. It stopped short of saying TSA lied.

"TSA officials made inaccurate statements regarding these transfers that undermined public trust in the agency," the report said. "These misstatements were apparently not meant to mischaracterize known facts. Instead, they were premised on an incomplete understanding of the underlying facts."

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said the agency took months to disclose its role in getting the data.

"The American public must know their personal information is well protected, or they will distrust the new systems we need to keep our nation safe," he said in a statement.

Army probe finds abuse at base near Mosul

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly released government documents say the abuse of prisoners in Iraq by U.S. forces was more widespread than previously reported.

An officer found that detainees "were being systematically and intentionally mistreated" at a holding facility near Mosul in December 2003. The 311th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Army's 101st Airborne Division ran the lockup.

Records previously released by the Army have detailed abuses at Abu Ghraib and other sites in Iraq as well as at sites in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The documents released Friday were the first to reveal abuses at the jail in Mosul and are among the few to allege torture directly.

"There is evidence that suggests the 311th MI personnel and/or translators engaged in physical torture of the detainees," a memo from the investigator said. The January 2004 report said the prisoners' rights under the Geneva Conventions were violated.

Top military officials first became aware of the Abu Ghraib abuses in January 2004, when pictures such as those showing soldiers piling naked prisoners in a pyramid were turned over to investigators. The resulting scandal after the pictures became public tarnished the military's image in Arab countries and worldwide and sparked investigations of detainee abuses.

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► **Best sellers — books**

The Associated Press

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
2. "Honeymoon" by James Patterson, Howard Roughan (Little, Brown)
3. "The Rising: Before They Were Left Behind" by Tim LaHaye, Jerry B. Jenkins (Tyndale House Publishers)
4. "The Broker" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
5. "With No One as Witness" by Elizabeth George (HarperCollins)
6. "Cold Service" by Robert B. Parker (Putnam)
7. "Impossible" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte Press)
8. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion)

(Hyperion)

9. "Prep" by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House)
10. "Vanishing Acts" by Jodi Picoult (Atria)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
2. "A Deadly Game: The Untold Story of the Scott Peterson Investigation" by Catherine Crier (ReganBooks)
3. "Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full Potential" by Joel Osteen (Warner Faith)
4. "Blood Brother: 33 Reasons My Brother Scott Peterson Is Guilty" by Anne Bird (ReganBooks)
5. "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown)

6. "Conspiracy of Fools: A True Story" by Kurt Eichenwald (Broadway)

7. "Don't Kiss Them Good-bye" by Allison DuBois (Fireside)
8. "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" by Jose Canseco (ReganBooks)
9. "French Women Don't Get Fat: The Secret of Eating for Pleasure" by Mireille Guiliano (Knopf)
10. "The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous and Broke" by Suze Orman (Riverhead)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown (Pocket)
2. "Murder List" by Julie Garwood (Ballantine)
3. "The Narrows" by Michael Connelly (Warner)

4. "The Calhouns: Suzanna and Megan" by Nora Roberts (Silhouette)

5. "Deep Freeze" by Lisa Jackson (Zebra)
6. "Blowout" by Catherine Coulter (Jove)
7. "The Last Juror" by John Grisham (Dell)
8. "Deception Point" by Dan Brown (Pocket)
9. "Bad Business" by Robert B. Parker (Berkley)
10. "Divine Evil" by Nora Roberts (Bantam)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead)
2. "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston (Perennial)

3. "The Time Traveler's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger (Harcourt/Harvest)

4. "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd (Penguin)
5. "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult (Washington Square Press)
6. "Bad Cat: 244 Not-So-Pretty Kitties and Cats Gone Bad" by Jim Edgar (Workman)
7. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon (Vintage)
8. "Can You Keep a Secret?" by Sophie Kinsella (Delta)
9. "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference" by Malcolm Gladwell (Back Bay)
10. "Reading Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi (Random House)

► **Best sellers — video**

By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's most popular videos as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission:

Top Kid Video Sales

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)

1. "Barbie: Fairytopia," Lions Gate Home Entertainment.
2. "Dora's Egg Hunt," Paramount Home Entertainment.
3. "Dora the Explorer: Catch the Star," Paramount Home Entertainment.
4. "Thomas & Friends: Sodor Celebration," Hit Entertainment.
5. "Baby Monet: Discovering the Seasons," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
6. "Mulan 2," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
7. "Max & Ruby: Springtime For Max & Ruby," Nickelodeon Video.
8. "Candyland: The Great Lollipop Adventure," Paramount Home Entertainment.
9. "Disney Princess Stories Volume 2," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
10. "Barney: Let's Go to the Farm," Hit Entertainment.

Top VHS Rentals

(Based on data provided by the Video Software Dealers Assn.)

1. "Ladder 49," Touchstone Home Video.
2. "Flight of the Phoenix (Widescreen)," FoxVideo.
3. "Taxi," FoxVideo.
4. "The Notebook," New Line Home Entertainment.
5. "Exorcist: The Beginning," Warner Home Video.
6. "Saw," Artisan Home Entertainment.
7. "Ray," Universal Studios Home Video.
8. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie," Paramount Home Entertainment.
9. "Shall We Dance," Miramax Home Entertainment.
10. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

Top VHS Sales

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)

1. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie," Paramount Home Entertainment.
2. "Bambi (Special Edition)," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
3. "Barbie: Fairytopia," Lions Gate Home Entertainment.
4. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

5. "Ladder 49," Touchstone Home Video.

6. "Dora's Egg Hunt," Paramount Home Entertainment.

7. "Dora the Explorer: Catch the Star," Paramount Home Entertainment.

8. "Thomas & Friends: Sodor Celebration," Hit Entertainment.

9. "Baby Monet: Discovering the Seasons," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.

10. "Mulan 2," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.

11. "The Notebook," New Line Home Entertainment.

12. "Exorcist: The Beginning," Warner Home Video.

13. "Saw," Artisan Home Entertainment.

14. "Ray," Universal Studios Home Video.

15. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie," Paramount Home Entertainment.

16. "Shall We Dance," Miramax Home Entertainment.

17. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

5. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie (Pan & Scan)," Paramount Home Entertainment.

6. "Barbie: Fairytopia," Lions Gate Home Entertainment.

7. "Woman Thou Art Loosed (Widescreen)," FoxVideo.

8. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie (Widescreen)," Paramount Home Entertainment.

9. "The Notebook," New Line Home Entertainment.

10. "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.

11. "Exorcist: The Beginning," Warner Home Video.

12. "Saw," Artisan Home Entertainment.

13. "Ray," Universal Studios Home Video.

14. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie (Widescreen)," Paramount Home Entertainment.

15. "Shall We Dance," Miramax Home Entertainment.

16. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

Massacre," 50 Cent.

HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SINGLE: "Candy Shop," 50 Cent (feat. Olivia).

TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUM: "The Massacre," 50 Cent.

HOT COUNTRY SINGLE/TRACK: "That's What I

Love About Sunday," Craig Morgan.

TOP COUNTRY ALBUM: "Kerosene," Miranda Lambert.

TOP VHS RENTAL: "Ladder 49."

TOP VHS SALE: "The Spongebob SquarePants

Movie."

TOP DVD SALE: "Ladder 49 (Widescreen)."

TOP KID VIDEO: "Barbie: Fairytopia."

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<p>March 17 • Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 am • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am • St. Patrick's Day • Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 am</p>	<p>March 18 • Friday • Midland Shopping - 9:00 am (rsvp early)</p>	<p>March 19 • Saturday • Child Birth Classes 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Laurie Burks, R.N. Certified Child Birth Educator Katrina Reynolds, LVN Certified Child Birth Educator 2nd Floor Hospital - 263-4550</p>
<p>March 20 • Sunday • COLD FEET - MCT - 1:00 pm (rsvp by 3-11)</p>	<p>March 21 • Monday • Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm • Supper Club - "Sky's" - 5:30 pm</p>	<p>March 22 • Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 am • New Mexico Casino Trip - 10:00 am</p>
<p>March 23 • Wednesday • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am</p>	<p>March 24 • Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 am • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am</p>	<p>March 25 • Friday Open</p>
<p>March 26 • Saturday OPEN</p>	<p>March 27 • Sunday Easter</p>	<p>March 28 • Monday • Games - 2:00 pm • Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm</p>
<p>March 29 • Tuesday • Mall Walking - 8:00 am • Supper Club "Cowboy's" - 5:30 pm</p>	<p>March 30 • Wednesday • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am</p>	<p>March 31 • Thursday • Mall Walking - 8:00 am • Coffee & Gale's - 10:00 am • Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am Dr. Roberts: "Depression" - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm</p>

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IN BRIEF

Cornell Corrections announces softball tournament at Cotton Mize Field

Cornell Corrections is sponsoring a co-ed softball tournament benefiting Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 22 and 23 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost is \$10 per player and the deadline to register is Friday, April 15.

Concessions will also be available.

For more information, call 267-1911 ext 214 during the day and 267-2004 at night.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the H.C. Rodeo Bowl during Howard College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo.

For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Dodgeball tourney benefiting Relay For Life set for April 9

Cornell Corrections has set up a co-ed dodgeball tournament for April 9 at the YMCA and the tournament will benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament costs \$10 per person and the deadline to register is April 5.

For more information, call 267-7911 ext. 214 during the day or 267-2004 at night.

Big Spring C.C. sets three-person tourney

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble April 2 and 3.

The entry fee is \$50 per player plus golf cart. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day.

The entry fee includes barbeque Saturday, as well.

The field will be flighted by first round score.

For more information, call the pro shop at 267-5354.

Howard County sets 4-H tournament

The Howard County 4-H Club has set up a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 1-2 starting at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church Gymnasium.

Teams can have up to four players and the cost of each person is \$10 and participants must be 16 years of age or older.

The tournament is double elimination and it will also include a three-point contest.

T-Shirts will be awarded for first and second place teams.

The deadline to enter is March 30.

For more information, call Howard County 4-H during the day at 264-2236 or Brian or Karen Moore at night at 393-5571.

Several Hawks qualify for finals at Odessa rodeo

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

ODESSA — The Howard College rodeo team's youth came into play the past two days at the Odessa College rodeo, but the Hawks still managed to get some participants into Saturday's short round.

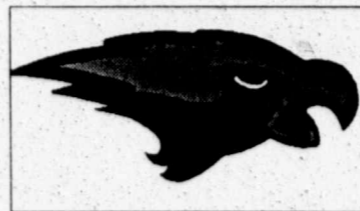
Five athletes competed Thursday night and several others followed Friday.

Freshmen Jed Headley and Charles Hendricks both competed in the bareback riding competition. Headley scored a 56

with his ride, and Hendricks, after making a good ride early, failed to mark his horse.

Freshman Jeremy Russell competed in the saddle bronc competition and got a 66 with his first ride and that should have been high enough to qualify for Saturday's short go.

The final two participants Thursday were Ramona Hendley and Mike Algieri. Hendley, a freshman, scored a 10.3 in the goat tying competition, while Algieri, a sophomore, scored an 11.3 in the calf roping compe-



tition.

Sophomore Sierra Stoney scored a 16.02 Friday in barrel racing and that should be good enough to get into the short round, according to Howard coach Greg Kernick.

Sophomores Trent Broussard and Danny McDowell pressed their luck in the bull riding competition, but only one

was strong enough to get into the short round. Broussard scored a 70 with his first ride and currently sits eighth, while McDowell sits 11th after his first ride score of 67 and most likely won't get into the short round, said Kernick.

Three freshman competed in steer wrestling Friday. Wayne Shaffell scored a 7.2 and currently sits fifth, which should get him into the short round, but Headley and Juan Alcazar might not be as fortunate. Headley scored a 7.8, while Alcazar's first run was

recorded at 7.9. Both times could be good enough to get in the final round, but Kernick said it would be close.

"We are young and once we get through the freshman bumps we should be pretty good," said Kernick. "We know we can play, but we just need a few breaks."

Saturday's short round results were unavailable at press time, but will be available in Monday's edition of the Herald.

The Hawks travel to Snyder next weekend to take part in the Western Texas College Rodeo.

Big Spring netters grab ninth at stiff Lubbock Tourney

• Villarreal takes fourth in girl's singles action in Lubbock

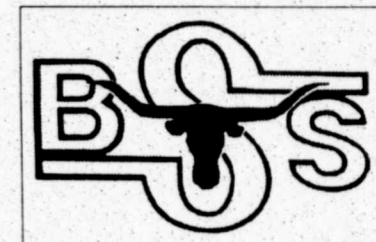
By TROY HYDE

LUBBOCK — Big Spring's tennis team faced some stiff competition in Lubbock Thursday and Friday, but came away from the tournament with a nice result, according to coach Sarah Corse.

Big Spring finished ninth out of 16 teams, but beat every Class 4A team in the tournament except for Wichita Falls Rider and High, which are just as good and sometimes better than Class 5A teams, said Corse.

"The kids played well," said Corse. "We beat some good 4A teams that we will see at regionals and that's good. Wichita Falls always has strong teams and we knew that going into the tournament."

Midland Lee took the overall crown in the tournament, while Rider and High finished second and fourth, respectively. Big Spring finished higher than Class 4A teams such as Pampa, Hereford,



Dumas and Vurk Vurnett.

Big Spring's best finisher was senior Veronica Villarreal, who captured fourth place in girl's singles. Senior Alex Garipey also competed in girl's singles and was able to finish 11th.

Freshmen Jeremy Landin and Michelle McMutrey grabbed 11th in mixed doubles, while seniors Nick Rivera and Jason Vela finished 12th in boy's doubles.

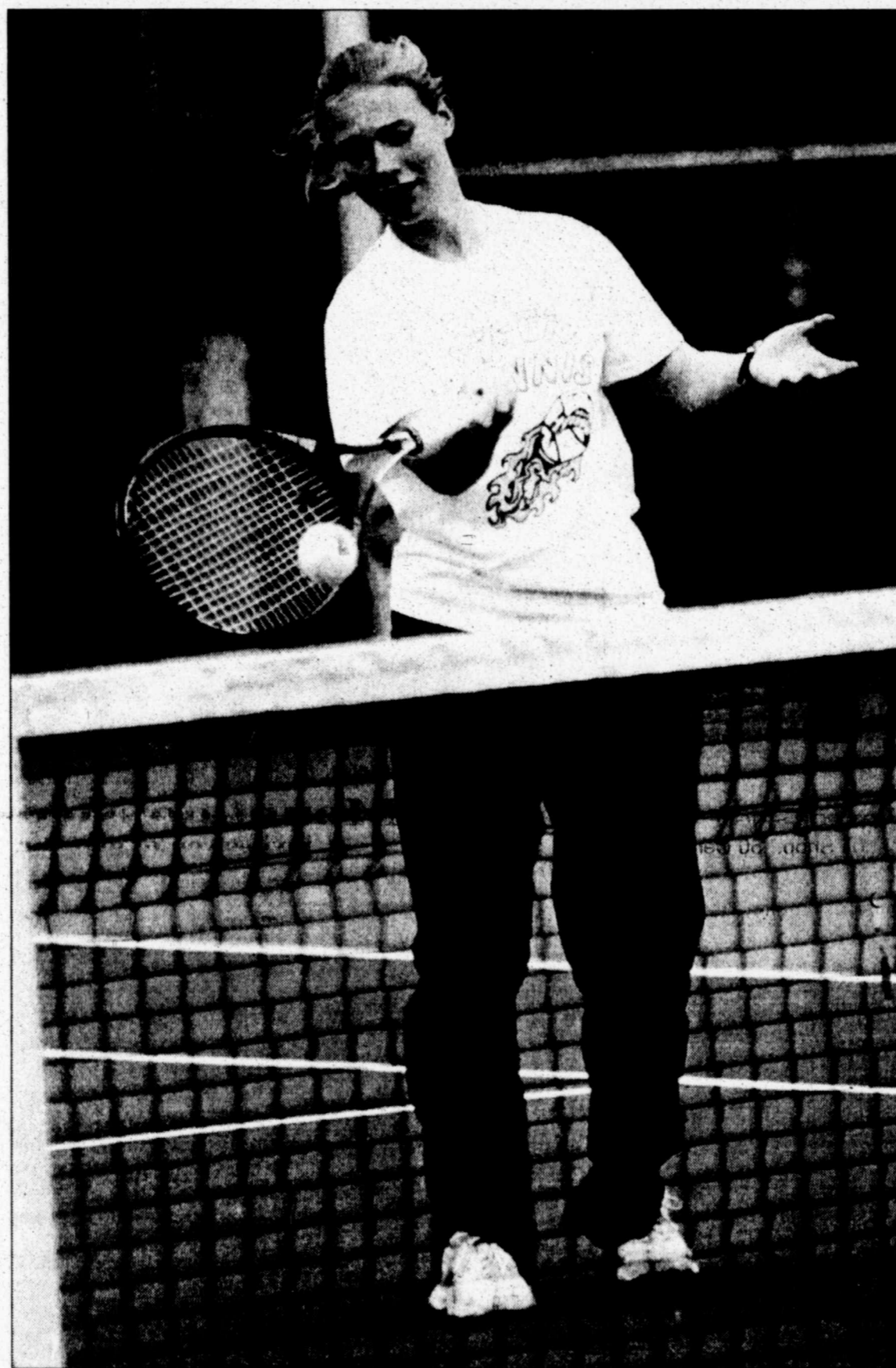
The other boy's double team — Ainhau Nghiem and Bryan Juan — grabbed 26th overall.

Big Spring also had to girl's doubles teams. Sophomore Reinhilde Robinson and freshman Allison Ward grabbed 14th, while juniors Natasha Neighbors and Jamie Jordan came in 23rd.

"Tasha and Jamie had a tough first round draw, but played well despite that," said Corse.

The Steers were down a player on the boy's side on the day and were forced to play with just one singles player.

See TENNIS, Page 2B



Big Spring sophomore Reinhilde Robinson sends a ball back over the net during a tournament at the Figure 7 Tennis Center inside Comanche Trail Park back in February. The Steers and Lady Steers traveled to Lubbock Thursday and Friday and Big Spring came away with a ninth place finish and defeated several regional competitors along the way.

Coahoma gets two impressive wins to open District 4-2A play

By TROY HYDE

SPORTS EDITOR — The Coahoma baseball and softball teams began District 4-2A action Friday on the road at Stamford and both teams came away with impressive victories.

The boy's team defeated its rival Bulldogs, 7-1, while the Bulldogettes defeated Stamford in five innings due to the mercy

rule, 14-3.

COAHOMA BOYS

Coahoma (2-11, 1-0) jumped out early against Stamford and, with the pitching of senior Lance Roberts, never looked back against its rival.

The Bulldogs batted around and scored four runs in the first inning en route to a 7-1 win over Stamford. Stamford's lone run came in the fourth inning, but Coahoma ended the game with one run in the sixth and two runs in the seventh to finish off the other Bulldogs.

"We were looking forward to starting the district year because our non-district schedule was so brutal," said Coahoma coach Brad Harmon.

Roberts shut down Stamford in earning the complete game win. He gave up one earned run on five hits and struck out 10, while not surrendering a walk.

"Lance pitched himself out of some jams early and overall did well for us on the mound," said Harmon.

Adrian Alvarado took the loss on the mound for Stamford. He threw the first three innings and gave up four earned runs.

Senior Adrian Abrego and Gene Corse got three hits each to lead Coahoma at the plate. One of Abrego's hit was an RBI double.

Roberts went two-for-four, while senior Orrin Mansfield went one-for-four with two RBIs. Senior Chad Born also added two RBIs and sophomore Collin McMillan hit his first

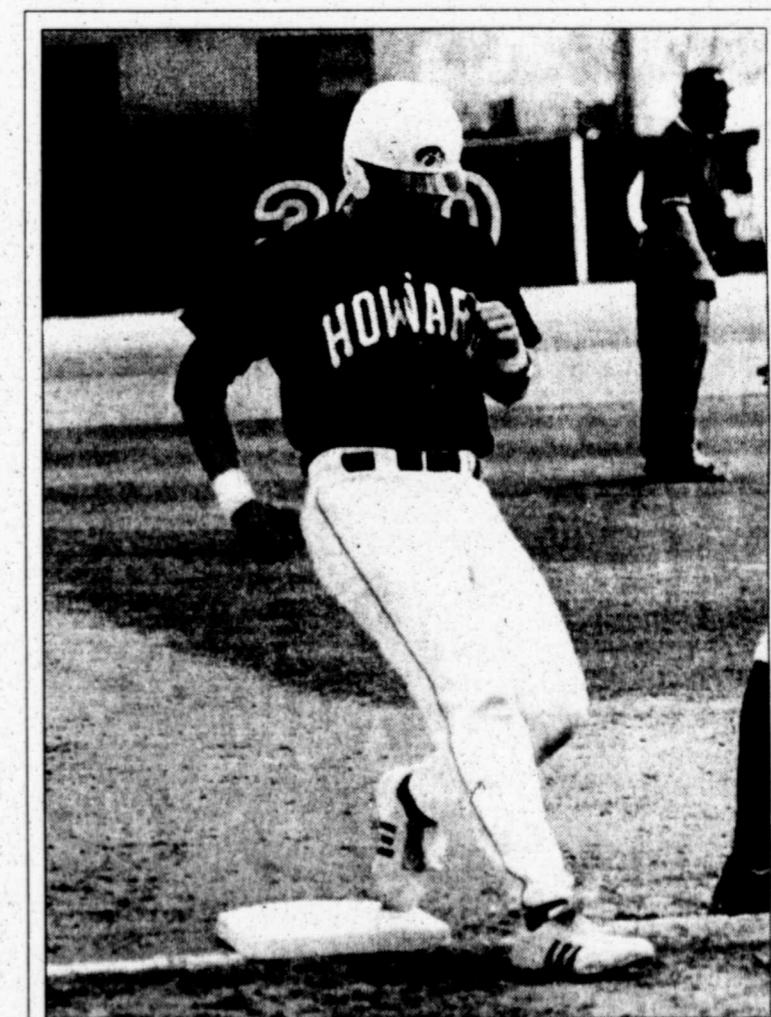


ROBERTS

Correction

Big Spring's Katy Abner took home fourth place in the pole vault competition at the Tall City Relays at Midland Lee Thursday. She was left out of Friday's story, but took fourth with a vault of 8-6.

Also, Esther Tobar took fifth in the girl's 800 meter run. Hayley Adams was originally listed as the fifth place finisher.



Howard freshman catcher Jeff Ward runs into third base during the Hawks' sweep of LCU Tuesday. Howard lost to New Mexico JC Friday in Hobbs, N.M. 12-4 and 10-4 and played New Mexico JC twice at Jack Barber Field Saturday. The Hawks are now 18-7 overall and 1-5 in WJCAC play. Saturday's results were unavailable at press time.

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

Bomb threat overshadows game in Ann Arbor Friday

• Game again takes back seat in Pistons game with Pacers

By LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer
AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — The Indiana Pacers had another bizarre trip to Detroit, with offcourt problems again overshadowing their play.

After the start was delayed for 1 hour, 25 minutes because of a telephoned threat that there was a bomb in Indiana's locker room, Austin Croshere scored 15 points and Reggie Miller had 14 to lead the Pacers to a 94-81 victory Friday night.

"It's very different when you have your lives threatened. It was disturbing," Miller said.

Chauncey Billups led Detroit with 23 points and Rasheed Wallace had 15. The Pistons had won 12 straight at home.

Auburn Hills' chief of police Doreen Olko said The Palace — the site of the melee between the teams four months ago — received a call about an hour before the scheduled start with a very specific threat that there was a bomb in the locker room. "Nothing was found," Olko said. "We are completely confident that the Pacers' locker room and that this entire building is safe. If not, we wouldn't be here."

The Pacers went on and off their bus about three times, according to their driver, and once left the loading dock and drove to a far end of the parking lot. Olko said it was the team's decision to board the bus.

The Pistons had what they called "playoff-level security" in place for Indiana's first game at The Palace since the Nov. 19 brawl between the teams at the arena that spilled into the stands, and back onto the court. Indiana won the infamous game 97-82.

Several Pacers mingled with the crowd before the game, signing autographs, and Jermaine O'Neal even took pictures with fans on his way to the court at halftime.

After the pregame drama, the game was dull — until a confrontation with 5:50 left.

Detroit's Ben Wallace fouled Scot Pollard at the top of the key, then Pollard lightly swung an elbow at Wallace's chest. Wallace responded with harsh words and the two were face to face before being separated.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma junior Sarah Dunn heads to first base after connecting with the ball against Big Spring March 19. Dunn had a double and scored twice Friday during Coahoma's rout of district rival Stamford. The Bulldogettes won, 14-3.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

home run of the season. "We kind of put everything together today and are starting to play like a team," said Harmon.

"Our goal is to win the district and we had the mentality today that we were going to win."



BORN

COAHOMA GIRLS

The Bulldogettes had no problems with Stamford Friday as they finished off their rivals in five innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Coahoma got just six hits at the plate, but that was partly because Stamford committed nine errors in the field.

Junior Kali Roberts was her usual self on the mound. She started the game and got the win after throwing four innings and giving up one earned run on one hit. She also struck out six

batters. "She was dominant again," said Coahoma coach Robby Dickenson. Sophomore Ami Martinez pitched the fifth inning for the Bulldogettes and gave up one earned run after giving up one hit and walking two. She also struck out two hitters.

Coahoma led 10-0 after three innings. They scored six runs in the second and four in the third inning and then closed out the game with two runs each in the final two innings.

Stamford scored one run in the fourth inning and then got two more in the fifth.

"The game went the way I thought it would go," said Dickenson. "We held our focus and got our first district win."

Coahoma's six hits came from six different players. Junior Drew Wells and senior Cheyenne Grice each hit triples and scored two runs, while Grice added two RBIs.

Junior Sarah Dunn added a double and two runs, as well.

"All three hit the ball pretty well for us Friday,"



said Dickenson. Senior Ruby Garcia and juniors Ashly New and Liz Conley got the other three hits.

Garcia singled, had three runs and an RBI, while Conley had an RBI double and New had an RBI single.

Freshman Krista Kerby reached base on a throwing error and eventually got all the way around the bases, which rounded out the scoring for Coahoma.

Both Coahoma teams travel to Colorado City Tuesday to take on the rival Wolves and Lady Wolves.

"It's a big game for us," said Dickenson. "They're a good team and it should be a tough match."

The girl's varsity game will start at 7 p.m. as it follows the JV game at 5 p.m.

The boy's varsity game also follows the JV game and will begin at 7 p.m.

Rockets win game, lose McGrady early

By BRETT MARTEL

AP Sports Writer
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Houston Rockets lost Tracy McGrady, but weren't about to lose to the worst team in the Western Conference.

Bob Sura had 19 points and 11 assists, and former Hornet David Wesley added 15 points to help the Rockets beat New Orleans 81-68 on Friday night.

"Obviously somebody had to step up, take the shots, and I was able to get in the lane, get penetration and make some plays for myself and my teammates," Sura said. "The penetration really hurt them."

McGrady, the Rockets' leading scorer (25.5 points per game), left early in the first quarter with a strained right hip, falling to the floor after colliding with Yao Ming while defending in the lane.

"I tried to help him steal the ball and I think my knee or my hip, I don't know where, hit on his leg," Yao said.

But Yao went on to score 11 of his 12 points in the first half, then Sura, Wesley and Scott Padgett (10 points) carried the scoring load from there.

"I'm just glad we came out of here with a win," Wesley said. "We have a good inside game. Yao didn't play particularly well tonight, but we can go inside, we've got good

shooters on the floor. Even though we didn't shoot the ball particularly well, our defense is going to give us a chance to make some mistakes and hopefully all those other things will work out."

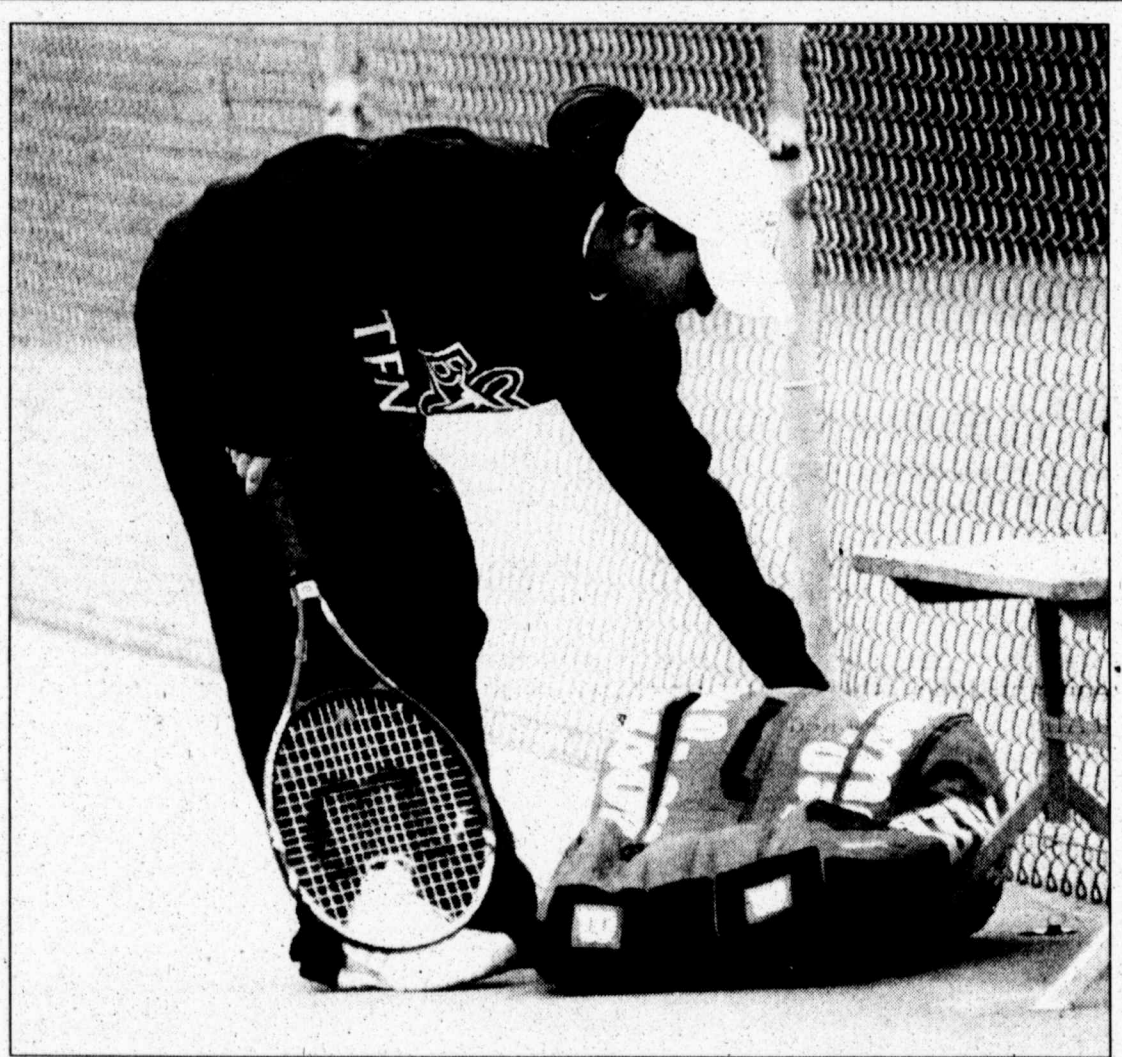
Lee Nailon led New Orleans with 17 points but had little help. Dan Dickau, normally one of the Hornets' leading scorers, missed his first nine shots and finished with five points, all in the fourth quarter. J.R. Smith scored 11 points.

With Yao getting his fourth foul early in the third period, he was limited to 24 minutes, leaving the Rockets to play half the game with neither Yao nor McGrady on the floor.

"Having Tracy go down early, Yao struggling a little — on the road to gut one out, it's a good feeling," Sura said.

The Rockets have won nine of 11 games and three in a row, although their latest triumph was ugly. Houston shot only 36.6 percent, but New Orleans was even worse at 35.1 percent. Houston had a 54-46 rebounding edge, however, with Clarence Weatherspoon and Padgett each grabbing 11.

"We settled for bad shots ... We didn't move the ball well enough, we didn't set good screens," Hornets coach Byron Scott said.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Veronica Villarreal reaches into her bag before action began at the Big Spring tennis tournament at Comanche Trail Park last month. Villarreal took fourth overall in girl's singles at the Lubbock Tournament Thursday and Friday. Big Spring finished ninth out of 16 as a team, but defeated several key Class 4A regional teams.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

Sophomore Roshan Shroff — the team's No. 1 — also had a tough first round draw, but was able to grab 19th place in the end.

"He had a tough first round draw, but it was the best tennis I have ever seen him play," said Corse.

Each category had 32

participants competing. "The team came through despite being one player short because

a kid decided not to play anymore," said Corse. "We'll have to move on from it though."

The Steers and Lady Steers will travel to Abilene next

weekend to take part in another tough tournament.

"If you lose in this one then you are through," said Corse. "It will get us ready for the district tournament because that is how that tourney works."



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Flora W
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Kentucky takes out No. 6 Utah

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer
AUSTIN (AP) — With three 7-footers on the roster, the Kentucky Wildcats felt good about their chances of going one-on-one against Utah's All-America center Andrew Bogut. If nothing else, those big men represented 15 fouls.

Then starting center Randolph Morris burned two in the first 90 seconds. That meant coach Tubby Smith had to turn to a pair of centers that he had kept on the bench in a total of 11 games this season.

Shagari Alleyne and Lukasz Obrzut responded perfectly, using every inch of their long frames to pester Bogut into the worst offensive game of his career, paving the way for a 62-52 victory by the Wildcats on Friday night in a semifinal of the Austin Regional.

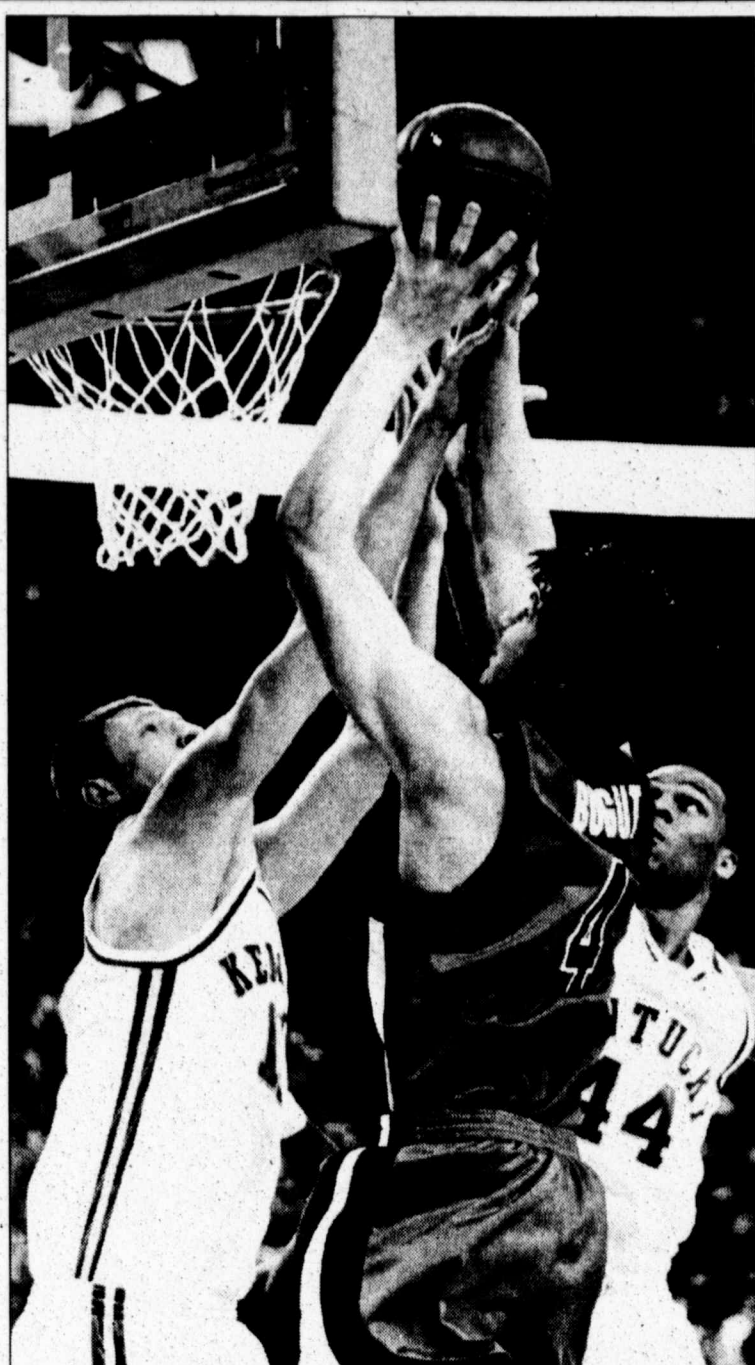
"They were fired up, looking forward to it," Smith said.

Although Bogut finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds, he made just 8 of 19 shots — matching the most misses of his career — and was a career-worst 4-for-11 from the line.

His aim was better in the second half than the first, but his rebounding fell off. Unlike the previous game when he offset 10 points with a career-high seven assists, he didn't have any this time.

"It was a great advantage having three 7-footers who can run the floor, defend and block shots," said Alleyne, who blocked the first shot Bogut tried against him and appeared to bother Bogut the most with his massive wingspan. "I'm 7-3. I'm not going to be intimidated by a guy who's 7-foot."

Kentucky (28-5) was just



KRT photo/David Stephenson, Lexington Herald Leader
UK's Lukasz Obrzut and Chuck Hayes try to stop Utah's Andrew Bogut in the first half of their NCAA third round game in Austin Friday. Kentucky won the game by 10.

as impressive on offense, shooting a season-best 62 percent — missing just six 2-pointers — even while emptying the bench. Ten players got at least 11 minutes and none more than the 27 logged by Rajon Rondo.

That means the Wildcats should have fresh legs Sunday when they play Michigan State, with the winner headed to the Final Four. The Spartans advanced by beating Duke 78-68.

The Utes (29-6) knew they wouldn't wear down the Wildcats. They just hoped Bogut would open things up for his teammates.

Instead, he missed eight of his first 10 shots, more than he missed in the

first two rounds combined. He missed his first two free throws and another when he could've made it a two-point game with 12:28 remaining. That was the closest Utah got after an early 9-8 lead dissolved into a 10-point deficit.

The disappointment goes deep for Bogut. The sophomore is widely expected to turn pro, so this probably was his last college game — and it was his first with his mom, Anne, in the stands. She arrived from Melbourne, Australia, Thursday.

Bogut declined to say whether he's NBA-bound, but coach Ray Giacoletti said he'd tell him to go if he'll be a top-three pick, which is likely.

Tar Heels survive 'Nova scare

By **KEITH PARSONS**

AP Sports Writer
SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Allan Ray fought through his struggles and made a clutch shot in the final seconds, drawing contact from Melvin Scott at the same time and leaving Villanova one free throw away from a tie.

Except it didn't count. Instead, referee Tom O'Neill called Ray for traveling, and North Carolina gained possession with a three-point lead.

"I thought the ref called the foul, but he called the walk," said Ray, who shot 2-for-14. "I feel we should have never put ourselves in that position anyway. I can't say that's the reason we lost, because of that one play."

The top-seeded Tar Heels took advantage of the good fortune, holding off the Wildcats 67-66 Friday night to advance to the regional finals for the first time since 2000.

Following the turnover, fifth-seeded Villanova (24-8) was forced to foul, and Rashad McCants made a free throw with 7.6 seconds left to increase the Tar Heels' margin to four. Kyle

Lowry rattled in a 3-pointer about 5 seconds later to bring the Wildcats to 67-66, and he chased down Sean May's errant inbounds pass just before the buzzer.

But his desperation heave was wide, letting North Carolina (30-4) move on to play Wisconsin in the Syracuse Regional.

Debris was thrown on the court from the stands after the frantic finish, but order quickly was restored.

McCants scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half and Marvin Williams added 16 for the Tar Heels. Point guard Raymond Felton had 11 points, 11 rebounds and five assists before fouling out for the first time this season.

Randy Foye led the Wildcats with a career-high 28 points, and Lowry also set his career best with 18 points. Ray, the leading scorer coming in with an average of 16.5 points, had another miserable performance and finished 3-for-32 in the tournament.

Villanova was in the game the whole way despite not having Curtis Sumpter, a 6-7 forward who was the second-lead-

ing scorer for the Wildcats. Sumpter tore a knee ligament last Sunday in the first half of a victory over Florida in the second round.

With Foye leading the way, Villanova jumped to a commanding lead in the first half.

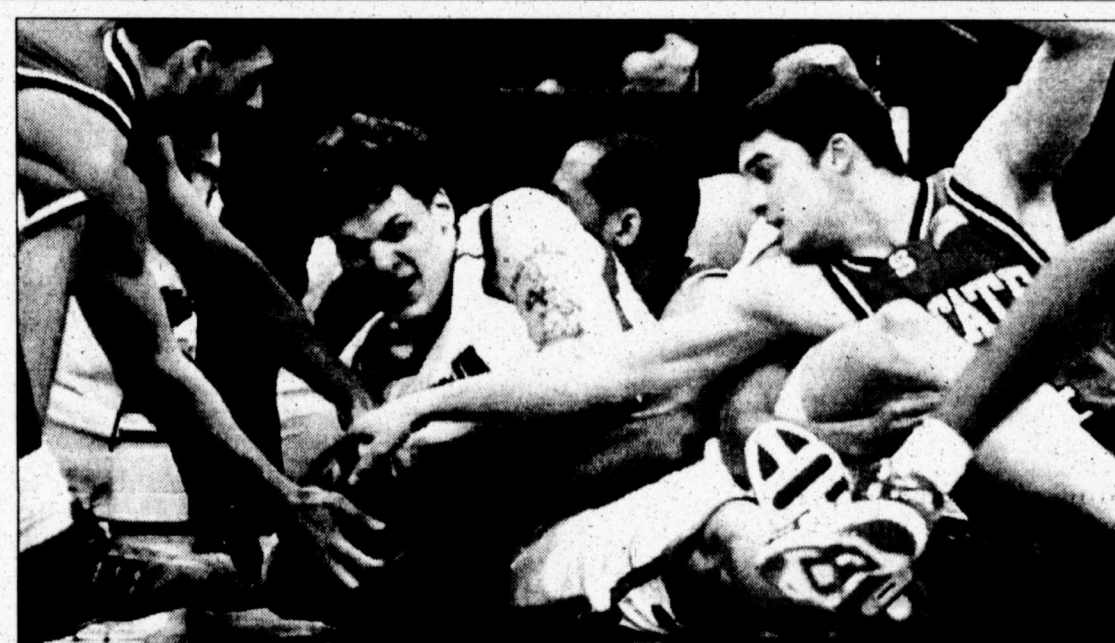
He scored 11 points in the opening 4 1/2 minutes — most with a defender in his face — and his 3 with about 6 minutes left before halftime made it 30-19.

Foye cooled off, and North Carolina rallied behind McCants, who ditched a new pair of shoes during the break and got his game back, too.

Held to two points in the first half, he immediately took over when Felton went out following his fourth foul.

"I'm a very superstitious guy, and I only had two points at halftime," McCants said. "So I went back to the old ones."

He swished a jumper from beyond the arc about 60 seconds later to give the Tar Heels the lead for good, and on three of the next four possessions, he drew fouls and converted both free throws, each time to make it 61-50.



KRT photo/Michael Perez, Philadelphia Inquirer
Wisconsin's Jason Chappell, center, comes up with the ball as North Carolina State's Ilian Evtimov, left, and Engin Atsur try to steal it during their third round NCAA tournament game in Syracuse, N.Y., Friday. Wisconsin defeated N.C. State by nine points.

Howard County Special Olympics 2005 Blankenship Field Sunday, March 19

Official Results

4x100 meter relay
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Stacey Wells
Seth Kinn
Stephen Lawson
Jasper McCartney

400 meter walk - male
*First Place
Stacey Wells

400 meter walk - female
*First Place
Diene Wylie

25 meter assisted walk
*First Place
Tommy Lasater
Cott Adams

25 meter wheelchair
*First Place
Valerie Heflin

25 meter walk - male
*First Place
Justin Jackson

50 meter wheelchair
*First Place
Sammy Spivey

50 meter walk - male and female
*First Place
Monroe Faubion

50 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Joey Alvarado

100 meter walk - male and female
*First Place
Raymond Holguin

100 meter wheelchair
*First Place
Diana Parker

100 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Jasper McCartney

100 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Seth Kinn

100 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Vanessa Rodriguez

100 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Sammy Yates

100 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Charles Wallace

100 meter dash - male and female
*First Place
Kathy Purdue

*Third Place
Bobby Emerson

200 meter dash - male
*First Place
Josh Hernandez

200 meter dash - male
*Second Place
Joseph Darpolar

200 meter dash - male
*Third Place
Stephen Lawson

Softball - male and female
*First Place
C.J. Mize

Softball - male and female
*Second Place
Raymond Holguin

Softball - male and female
*Third Place
Monroe Faubion

Softball - male and female
*Fourth Place
Steven Mills

Softball - male and female
*Fifth Place
Bobby Dancer

Softball - male and female
*Sixth Place
Jeremy Beck

Softball - male and female
*Seventh Place
Diene Wylie

Softball - male and female
*Eighth Place
Amaris Garcia

Softball - male and female
*Ninth Place
Diana Parker

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Jesse Carr

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Michigan State unseats No. 1 Duke in Sweet 16

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Tom Izzo demanded intensity from start to finish from his Michigan State players if they expected to beat Duke.

He got it, and the Spartans are moving on in the NCAA tournament.

Paul Davis led a bruising Michigan State squad with 20 points and 12 rebounds and the fifth-seeded Spartans knocked off top-seeded Duke with a 78-68 win Friday night in the Austin Regional semifinals.

The win sends the Spartans (25-6) to Sunday's regional final against No. 2 seed Kentucky (28-5). The winner of that game goes to the Final Four.

The victory gave Izzo his first win over Duke and coach Mike Krzyzewski in five meetings, including a loss in the 1999 Final Four, the year before the Spartans won the national title.

"I didn't give them a Knute Rockne speech. I just told them to give me 40 intense minutes," Izzo said. "I'm tickled with the win.

He was tickled but the action of the floor wasn't exactly touchy-feely.

Davis and Duke forward Shelden Williams pounded each other under the basket. On the perimeter, the Spartans used waves of defenders to harass up Duke sharpshooter J.J. Redick, the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year.

The result was a frustrated Redick having his third straight subpar

game in the NCAA tournament as he desperately looked for open shots.

He found only a few, finishing with just 13 points. Only twice did he get to the free throw line where the 94 percent shooter might have done some damage.

"We had to use our depth to our advantage," said Alan Anderson, who scored 17 points and was part of the rotation of players hounding Redick. "We were putting as much pressure on as possible."

Like most of their season, the Blue Devils had their "Big Three" of Redick, Williams and Daniel Ewing but little else when it counted against the Spartans.

Williams scored 19 points but fouled out in the final 3 minutes when the outcome was still in doubt.

The Blue Devils also committed 22 turnovers, which equaled their field goals.

"They took away our vision and we didn't see open players," Williams said. "It was like rushing the quarterback. With pressure you can't see your receiver."

The football analogy was appropriate considering the physical style the Spartans played. Michigan State outrebounded Duke 16-9 on the offensive glass and 38-33 overall.

"We've been in a lot of games like tonight, but we haven't had many with 22 turnovers," Redick said. "We weren't very strong with the ball."

Tied at 32 at halftime,



Michigan State's Alan Anderson, right, and teammate Paul Davis battle with Duke's Sheldon Williams for a rebound during their NCAA third round game in Austin Friday.

the Spartans grabbed their first lead with an 8-0 run early in the second.

Anderson hit Michigan State's first 3-pointer, and Shannon Brown followed it with a layup and another 3-pointer from the left wing that made it 40-36.

Anderson hit two more shots, and the Spartans appeared to have grabbed complete control when Ager soared over Redick on a fast break for spectacular dunk, then pound-

ed his chest with his fist as he went back up the floor.

"We were so pumped up that it was hard to tell if there was a turning point," Ager said.

Redick immediately answered the dunk with a 3-pointer from the top of the key and hit another that pulled Duke to 56-50 with 8:40 to play.

But it was only a flicker of a rally. Redick hit two free throws 30 seconds

later and didn't score another point.

Duke cut it to 66-63 when Ewing stripped the ball from Anderson and pulled up for a 3-pointer, but Williams fouled out 20 seconds later and Davis converted the three-point play.

"This was a game you just didn't get tired in," Davis said. "We just tried to wear them down. We did what we wanted to do."

Sweet 16 scores from Friday

Michigan State 78, Duke 68
UNC 67, Villanova 66
Kentucky 62, Utah 52
Wisconsin 65, NC State 56

Sunday's Elite 8 Games
UNC vs. Wisconsin
Kentucky vs. Michigan State

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Matthew

Now late on the first day of the Mary Magdalene Mary to see the behold, there earthquake, for a Lord descended and came and r stone, and sat appearance was and his raiment v and for fear of hid did quake, and dead men. An answered and women, Fear not that ye seek Jesus been crucified. For he is risen, even Come, see the pl Lord lay. And g tell his disciples from the dead, ar before you into shall ye see him: you. And they de from the tomb great joy, and re disciples word.

And behold, Jesus saying, All hail, and took hold o worshipped him Jesus unto them tell my brethren depart into Galil shall they see m

Mark 16

And when the past, Mary Ma Mary the mother Salome, bought they might cor him. And very e day of the week the tomb when risen. And they among themsel roll us away the door of the tom up, they see the rolled back: exceeding great into the tomb, young man sittin side, arrayed in and they were ai saith unto th amazed: ye se Nazarene, wh crucified: he is r here, behold, th they laid him! E disciples and P before you into shall ye see hi unto you. And and fled from trembling and had come upon said nothing to they were afraid Now when he on the first day appeared from Magdalene, fro cast out seven went and told been with th mourned and w

Luke 24

But on the first the tomb, bring found the stone and found not while they were them in dazzling down their faces living among the he spake unto y of man must be crucified, and the words, and ret eleven, and to Joanna, and Ma they told the appeared in the Peter arose, and seeth the linen wondering at th And behold, t named Emmau And they comm happened. An questioned together. But their And he said un have one with sad. And one o

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Resurrection Sunday He is risen

Matthew 28

Now late on the sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was as lightning, and his raiment white as snow; and for fear of him the watchers did quake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, even as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples. He is risen from the dead; and lo, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring his disciples word.

And behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then saith Jesus unto them, Fear not: go tell my brethren that they depart into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city, and told unto the chief priests all the things that were come to pass.

And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave much money unto the soldiers, saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and rid you of care. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying was spread abroad among the Jews, and continueth until this day.

But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, unto the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth.

Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and

lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Mark 16

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, they come to the tomb when the sun was risen. And they were saying among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the tomb? and looking up, they see that the stone is rolled back: for it was exceeding great. And entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, arrayed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he saith unto them, Be not amazed: ye seek Jesus, the Nazarene, who hath been crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold, the place where they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter. He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out, and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them: and they said nothing to any one; for they were afraid.

Now when he was risen early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they,

when they heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, disbelieved. And after these things he was manifested in another form unto two of them, as they walked, on their way into the country. 13 And they went away and told it unto the rest: neither believed they them.

And afterward he was manifested unto the eleven themselves as they sat at meat; and he upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not that he had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned. And these signs shall accompany them that believe: in my name shall they cast out demons; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall in no wise hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken unto them, was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. Amen.



John 20

Now on the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, while it was yet dark, unto the tomb, and seeth the stone taken away from the tomb. She runneth therefore, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. And they ran both together: and the other disciple outran Peter, and came first to the tomb; and stooping and looking in, he seeth the linen cloths lying; yet entered he not in. Simon Peter therefore also cometh, following him, and entered into the tomb; and he beholdeth the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, that was upon his head, not lying with the linen cloths, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then entered in therefore the other disciple also, who came first to the tomb, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew

not the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 1 So the disciples went away again unto their own home.

But Mary was standing without at the tomb weeping: so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; and she beholdeth two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 1 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. 1 When she had thus said, she turned herself back, and beholdeth Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 1 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou hast borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 1 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turneth herself, and saith unto him in Hebrew, Rabboni; which is to say, Teacher. 1 Jesus saith to her, Touch me not; for I am not yet

ascended: unto the Father; but go unto my brethren, and say to them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and my God and your God. 1 Mary Magdalene cometh and telleth the disciples, I have seen the Lord; and that he had said these things unto her.

When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

And when he had said this, he showed unto them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord. 2 Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace be unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with

them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and see my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and put it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name.

Happy Easter

Luke 24

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came unto the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, while they were perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel: and as they were affrighted and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying that the Son of man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered his words, and returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. Now they were Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James: and the other women with them told these things unto the apostles. And these words appeared in their sight as idle talk; and they disbelieved them. But Peter arose, and ran unto the tomb; and stooping and looking in, he seeth the linen cloths by themselves; and he departed to his home, wondering at that which was come to pass.

And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was threescore furlongs from Jerusalem. And they communed with each other of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, while they communed and questioned together, that Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What communications are these that ye have one with another, as ye walk? And they stood still, looking sad. And one of them, named Cleopas, answering said unto him,

Dost thou alone sojourn in Jerusalem and not know the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we hoped that it was he who should redeem Israel. Yea and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things came to pass. Moreover certain women of our company amazed us, having been early at the tomb; and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. And certain of them that were with us went to the tomb, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they were going: and he made as though he would go further. And they constrained him, saying, Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is now far spent. And he went in to abide with them. And it came to pass, when he had sat down with them to meat, he took the bread and blessed; and breaking it he gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Was not our heart burning within us, while he spake to us in the way, while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up that very hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath

appeared to Simon. And they rehearsed the things that happened in the way, and how he was known of them in the breaking of the bread.

And as they spake these things, he himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they beheld a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and wherefore do questionings arise in your heart? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye behold me having. And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here anything to eat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish. And he took it, and ate before them. And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Ye are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high.

And he led them out until they were over against Bethany; and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, blessing God.

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► Menus

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

MONDAY-Hamburger steak, seasoned rice, cream corn, salad, milk, rolls, fruit.
TUESDAY-Large baked potato, chili, sour cream, salad, broccoli and cheese milk, crackers, pie.
WEDNESDAY-Catfish, French fries, beans, coleslaw, milk, cornbread, fruited gelatin.
THURSDAY-Lasagna, mixed vegetables, salad, milk, garlic bread, pie.
FRIDAY-Pork roast, sweet potatoes, peas, carrots, rolls, milk, fruit.

SANDS CISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-Nutri-bars
TUESDAY-Pancake on a stick
WEDNESDAY-Biscuits and sausage
THURSDAY-Cinnamon rolls
FRIDAY-Cereal
LUNCH
MONDAY-Burritos, salad, corn, fru t, milk.
TUESDAY-Bar-b que on a bun, oven fries, pickles, ranch style beans, pineapple, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Frito pie, salad, pinto beans, cornbread, apples, milk.
THURSDAY-baked ham potatoes, salad, black-eyed peas, rolls, peaches, milk.
FRIDAY-Pizza, corn, salad, cookies, milk.

FORSAN ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-BAD WEATHER DAY
TUESDAY-Cereal, toast, juice, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Biscuit, sausage, juice, milk.
THURSDAY-Sausage on a stick, juice, milk.

FRIDAY-Cinnamon rolls, juice, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-BAD WEATHER DAY
TUESDAY-BBQ sandwich, waffle fries, orange smiles, salad, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Grilled ham and cheese, chips, mixed fruit, coleslaw, milk.
THURSDAY-Pizza, salad, pineapple slices, milk.
FRIDAY-Turkey, mashed potatoes w/gravy, peas, pears, rolls, milk.

BIG SPRING ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-HOLIDAY
TUESDAY-Cereal, sausage, juice, milk
WEDNESDAY-Breakfast pocket, applesauce, milk.
THURSDAY-Cereal, banana muffin, juice, milk.
FRIDAY-PBandJ, pears, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-HOLIDAY
TUESDAY-Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, green beans, apricots, roll, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Taco, salad, refried beans, Spanish rice, apple cobbler, milk.
THURSDAY-Cheeseburger, salad, French fries, mandarin oranges, cookie, milk.
FRIDAY-Sausage patty, pancake, orange juice, hashbrown stick, mixed fruit, milk.

WESTBROOK ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-NO SCHOOL
TUESDAY-French toast sticks, little smokies, cereal, juice, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Pancake pups, cereal, juice, milk

THURSDAY-Assorted cereal, toast, jelly, juice, milk.
FRIDAY-Sausage n blanket, cereal, juice, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-NO SCHOOL
TUESDAY-Pepperoni pizza, salad, corn, peaches, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Spaghetti w/meat sauce, okra, black-eyed peas, garlic bread, fruit, milk.
THURSDAY-Homemade hot dogs w/cheese, salad w/carrot sticks, pear halves, milk.
FRIDAY-Beef stew w/vegetables, peanut butter or cheese sandwiches, crackers, banana pudding, milk.

COAHOMA ISD

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-Poptarts, sausage, applesauce, milk.
TUESDAY-Donuts, sausage, graped juice, milk.
WEDNESDAY-Waffles, sausage, syrup, apple juice, milk.
THURSDAY-Sweetened rice, ham, juice, milk.
FRIDAY-Biscuits, ham, gravy, fruit, milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY-Pizza, salad, mixed fruit, cookies, milk.
TUESDAY-Green enchiladas or corndog, ranch beans, baby carrots, milk
WEDNESDAY-Hamburgers, chips, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, peach cups, milk.
THURSDAY-Tacos or burritos, pinto beans, salad, chocolate pudding, milk.
FRIDAY-Deli turkey or sandwiches and salad trays, buttered potatoes, cobbler, milk.

PAGEANT WINNERS



Hartlie and Preslie Smithie

Courtesy photo

Smithie children win at pageant

Preslie Smithie, 5, and Hartlie Smithie, 18 months, competed in the All Star Kids pageant March 13 in the Big Spring Mall. Preslie received one crown, four trophies, two medals, and two sashes, as she won overall All Star Kid, beauty for her class,

model of the day, photogenic and the talent competition, where she did a hip hop dance. Hartlie won two trophies and one medal, winning babe of her class, first alternate beauty and best team presentation with a parent.

Preslie and Hartlie are the daughters of Shannon and Angela Smithie and granddaughter of James and Carla Collinsworth and Beverly and Buddy Smithie, all of Big Spring and Bobby and Wilma Dennis of Fritch.

► Reunions

USS Maddox

Destroyer reunion set
A reunion for Navy personnel stationed aboard the USS Maddox Destroyer is set for Sept. 15-18, 2005, in Mobile, Ala., organized by the USS Maddox Destroyer Association (DD-168, DD-622 and DD-731.)
Contact Cliff Gillespie, 215 Wichita Ave., No. 605, Huntington Beach, Calif. 92648 or call 714-960-5283 or cwgilles45@aol.com.

USS Cascade sets reunion

The Navy ship USS Cascade AD-16 will hold a reunion Oct 9-16, 2005, at the Clarion Hotel at the Palace in Branson, Mich.
For more information contact Lyle "Preacher" Burchette at P.O. Box 544, Holister, MO 65673, 417-334-5627 or Bob Croghan, Sr., 7827 Cassia Court, St. Louis, Mo., 63123, 314-843-6615.

► Briefly

Vocalists invited

First Presbyterian Church of Midland invites all Permian Basin singers to join in a presentation of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony for Orchestra, Soloists and Chorus at 7 p.m. May 1. Area singers may join in this musical event. Rehearsals will be Saturdays during April. For more information, contact Greg Pysh at (432) 684-7821, ext. 39 or gpysh@fpcmid.org.

Three-event day planned

The Highland Council for the Deaf, along with the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, Permian Basin Interpreters for the Deaf and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock are sponsoring a free interpreter workshop from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. April 2. Titled "Deaf History Notes," the workshop is

set in the student center on the SWCID campus, 3200 Ave. C. Books may be purchased on-line through Hand AndMind.org or through the Highland Council for the Deaf. Continuing education credits are awarded for completion of the workshop.

Also, that same day from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., a free social event is planned at the same location. Board and card games are available for those wishing to participate and other fellowship events are planned. Beans and cornbread will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

This will be followed by a Town Hall Meeting from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Comments and concerns regarding deaf and hard of hearing issues in the community will be discussed.

For more information contact the Highland Council for the Deaf at 432-267-6779 voice/tty.

Class of 1965 seeks classmates

Big Spring High School Class of 1965 is seeking classmates to contact for an upcoming reunion.

If you have information on these people call Nancy Thomas Allan at 432-714-4390 or Ann Howard Duncan at 432-263-4887 or email them at nancy@teach.edb.utexas.edu.

Max Anderson, Joe Arriola, Judy Atkison, Robert Baker, Kathy Baulch, Carrie Blount, Edward Bright, David Brown, Dixie Brown, Duane Brown, Patsy Bryson, Tommy Buford, June Burr, Barbara Cabiness, Marshall Cockrall, Lorreen Daniels Cole, Noreen Cole, Humberto Cruz, Tommy Cunningham and Glynnia Witt Cuthbertson.

Also Robert Daniels, Terry Daughtry, Jessie Petree Day, Dana Dement, Carol Dennis, Allan Doelp, Jane Dpane Drinkard, Linda Edwards, Arthur Farris, Suzette Ferrell, Jo Ellen Morris Fiveash, Hilary Fleischer, Curtis Flewellan, Nita Masy Flores, June Forsyth, Fern Foster and Barbara Frazier.

And Ronald Gilliland, James Green, Hazel Grimes, Virginia Grisham, Charles Hall, Jan Hamilton, Larry Harper, Jack Hasenbank, Jo Hatfield, Larry Helton, Cecil Hendricks, Georgia Hissem, Jo Ann Hobbs,

Diane Holly, Thomas Hughes, Bob Husson, Sammy Jasso, Avanell Jenks, Edgar Jennins, Cheryl Gillihan Jones, Paul Kenning, Charlotte Peeler Kinard, Cecilia King and Kenneth Koon.
Also Darrel Lane, Bobby Lavender, Darlene Mitchell Leifeste, Paula Duncan Leonard, Henry Lopez, Robert Lopez, Linda Love, Nancy Wilson Lynch, Dan Maberry, Susan Magee, Alan McClinton, Judy Little McCrary, Patricia McDade, Charlene McDonald, Mary Kay McNallen, Jill McNery, Horace McPherson, La Nell Meredith, Sharon Metcalf, Shirley Munden and Greg Olson.

And Stanley Owens, Linda Parker, Helen Patterson, David Perron, Dennis Pollack, Hank Pope, Mike Pope, Susan Powell, Ricky Ream, Rita Fraser Richardson, Ben Roberts, Wayne Root, Gary Smith, Kinda Smith, Vicki Smith, Yvonne Smith, Reena Sneed, Donna Stacy, Alan Stanfield, Janice Roberts Stevenson, Danny Stroup, Shirley Taylor, Elaine Wagner Thomas, Laura Thomas and Alicia Torres.

► Poetry Corner

That Old School

by Bernice Reed Jones

There was a place once long ago, a small quaint place called, "Elbow." Just up the road a small creek flowed. An old school sat there by the road, and to this school I once did go. And as the years pass slowly by, there in my dreams I often drive, by that old school of long ago and in my heart my love still glows, for those old friends I use to know at Elbow. Sometime at night when wind blows cold, there in my dreams, that creek still flows.



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If your family meets any of the following criteria, your child may be eligible

- * child is **age 3** by September 1, 2004
- * **family income** from 2004 is less than 19,350 (for family of 4)
- * child **physically challenged**
- * child is **emotionally challenged**

Enroll your child in a program with benefits for the entire family

- * Provides pre-school children the highest quality education
- * Provides free medical screening, two (2) nutritious meals and a snack **each day** for your child
- * connects your family to the right services
- * encourages/insists on parent participation
- * focuses on the total well-being of your child

Size Of Family Unit	Guidelines
1.....	\$9,570
2.....	\$12,830
3.....	\$16,090
4.....	\$19,350
5.....	\$22,610
6.....	\$25,870
7.....	\$29,130
8.....	\$32,390

For family units with more than 8 members, add \$3,260 for each additional member
Pre-Registration for the 2005-2006 school year is here! Tuesday-Friday, March 29 - April 1
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

At the following location:
Lakeview Head Start Center
1107 NW. 7th St. • Big Spring, Texas
432-267-7452

TANF/Recipients are also eligible for the Head Start Program
Bring Birth Certificate, Immunization record(shots) & Proof of Income(check stub/W-2 form)
Classes will begin September 12, 2005

FEEES: NONE
website: www.goph.org

► En

Cave, A

Dr. and Mrs. Cave, former Spring, announce engagement daughter, Ste to Chris Abb Mr. and Mrs. Abbott Jr. of F Sterling and an Aug. 13 c Dallas.
The bride-eld from Christian Uni is a certifi accountant. employed Investments i She is the g ter of Eilene C late James Ca of Roby and t

► Bi



Kaylie Alexi

Kaylie Enriq was b 9, 2005, at weighing 9 was 19 3/4 i Her parents a Rebecca E was welcome Blake and Br

Jazzmin

Hale, born 2005, at 12:25 ing 6 pound and was 19 long. Her p Kyle and Eb grandparents Graves of l Maria Pei Snyder, Ste Odessa and Cindy Wl Forsan. She comed hon brother, Reed

► Who

Cary Bank son of the C Department a professor of music Sou College in Lle been named Who Among Teachers for 8th Edition.

He is the s and James B grandson Grantham a Effie and th Banks, all of Nomination decided by t for this awar Banks, who in 1993, has st at Lubbock University a bachelor's de eral studies Tech Univer He served a coordinator Creative Arts seven years i named depar person in Jar In addition as chairpers directs the Night Live Banks rec Excellence i

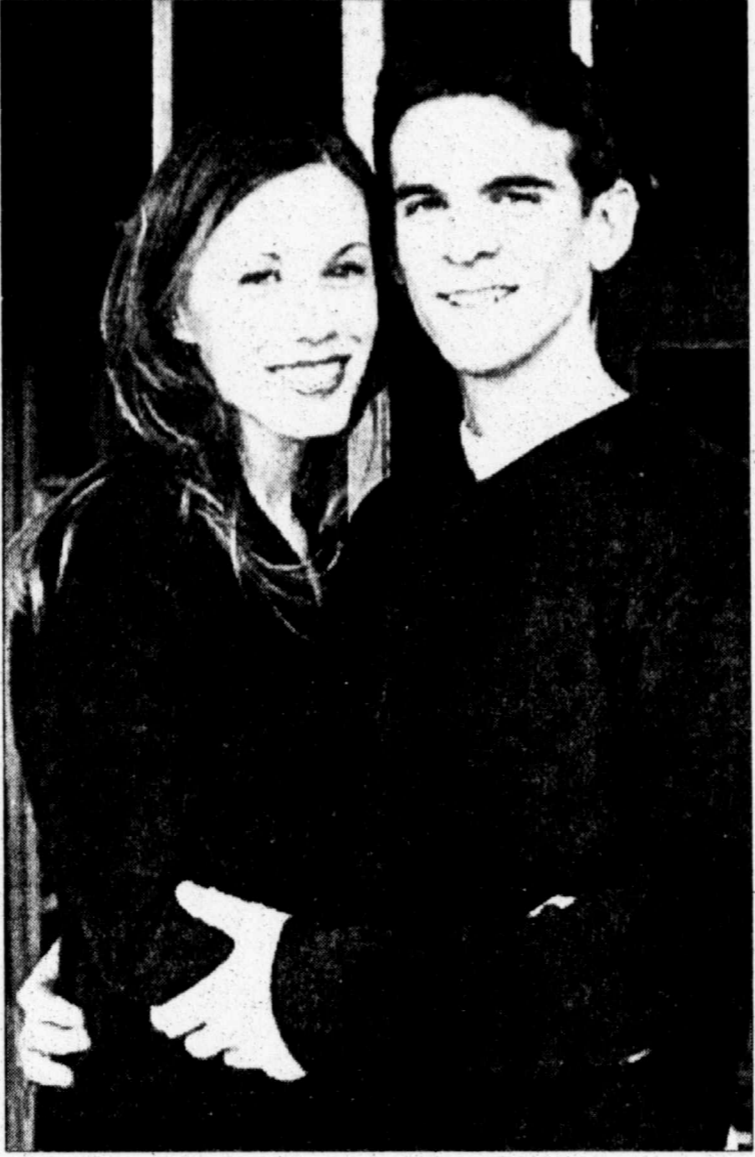
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► Engagement

Cave, Abbott engaged

Dr. and Mrs. James R. Cave, formerly of Big Spring, announce the engagement of their daughter, Sterling Cave to Chris Abbott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Abbott Jr. of Round Rock. Sterling and Chris plan an Aug. 13 ceremony in Dallas. The bride-elect graduated from Abilene Christian University and is a certified public accountant. She is employed by HBK Investments in Dallas. She is the granddaughter of Eilene Cave and the late James Cave, formerly of Roby and the late Mr.

and Mrs. Foster S. Price of Sterling City. The prospective groom received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin and is currently a master's of business administrative student at Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Abbott will be employed by Bain & Company as a consultant following graduation. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Connolly of Fort Worth and Jane Abbott and the late Robert Abbott of Virginia.



Sterling Cave and Chris Abbott



Chrystal Marie Wise and John Brian Ramirez

Wise, Ramirez to wed

Chrystal Marie Wise of Leavenworth and John Brian Ramirez of Big Spring announce their engagement to be married April 23, 2005, at the McLouth Church of the Nazarene in McLouth. The future bride is the daughter of Tony and Linda Wise of Leavenworth. She is a 2003 graduate of Leavenworth High School and a 2004 graduate of

LaBaron Hair Academy. She is currently employed as a cosmetologist at His and Her Hair Studio, Leavenworth. The future groom is the son of the late Bernice Velasquez and the grandson of Louis Velasquez and Oscar and Dora Del Bosque of Big Spring. He is a 2002 high school graduate and is employed by Leavon II, Lansing.

► Births



Kaylie Alexis Enriquez

Kaylie Alexis Enriquez, a girl, was born March 9, 2005, at 10:10 a.m. weighing 9 pounds and was 19 3/4 inches long. Her parents are Jose and Rebecca Enriquez. She was welcomed home by Blake and Brittney.

Jazzmin Alejandra Hale, a girl, was born March 16, 2005, at 12:25 p.m. weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. Her parents are Kyle and Eba Hale. His grandparents are Jimmy Graves of Big Spring, Maria Perchage of Snyder, Steve Hale of Odessa and Loren and Cindy Willison of Forsan. She was welcomed home by big brother, Reece Hale.

► Who's Who

Cary Banks, chairperson of the Creative Arts Department and assistant professor of commercial music South Plains College in Lleweland, has been named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers for the 2004-005, 8th Edition.

He is the son of Doris and James Banks and the grandson of Nancy Grantham and the late Effie and the late Bill Banks, all of Big Spring.

Nominations were decided by the students for this award.

Banks, who joined SPC in 1993, has studied music at Lubbock Christian University and earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Texas Tech University in 1998. He served as program coordinator of the Creative Arts Department seven years before being named department chairperson in January 2003.

In addition to his duties as chairperson, he also directs the Thursday Night Live ensemble. Banks received the Excellence in Teaching

Adrian Rick Solis, a boy, was born March 13, 2005, at 6:27 a.m. weighing 9 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 inches long. His parents are Donna Carol Payne and Ricky Solis Jr. His grandparents are Carolyn and the late Johnny Payne, Olga Solis and Ricky Solis. He was welcomed home by big sister, Brianna.

Milagro Conception Gay, a girl, was born March 14, 2005, at 8:11 a.m. weighing 8 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are John and Ofelia Gay. Her grandparents are Frank and Oliva Gonzales of Lamesa and John and Cheryl Gay of Fort Worth. She was welcomed home by big brother, Fidencio Lee Gay.

Tere'a Lewis, a girl, was born March 12, 2005, at 11:30 p.m. weighing 5 pounds, 7 ounces and was 18 inches long. Her parents are Ronald Jeffery and Kori Lewis. Her grandparents are Debra Lewis and Doris and Hershale Lewis. She was welcomed home by Tanashia and Jovante.

Award, SPC's highest teaching honor in 2000.

Banks was a vocalist, keyboardist and songwriter with the Maines Brothers Band for 20 years and in 1993, he was inducted into the West Texas Walk of Fame.

"It is quite an honor to have students that I love and admire, think of me so much," said Banks.

► In the Military

Army Staff Sgt. Samuel Viera Jr.

Army Staff Sgt. Samuel Viera Jr. has returned to the U.S. after being deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The soldier is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Killeen.

His wife, Haydee is the daughter of Manuel Cardenas of La Habra, Calif.

He is a 1991 graduate of Big Spring High School.

Viera, a patient administration supervisor, is the son of Olga Viera and Samuel Viera Sr., both of Big Spring.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is the official name given to military operations involving members of the U.S. armed forces and coalition forces participating in efforts to free and secure Iraq.

Mission objectives focus on force protection, peacekeeping, stabilization, security and counter-insurgency operations as the Iraqi transitional governing bodies assume full sovereign powers to govern the people of Iraq.

Members from all branches of the U.S. military and multinational forces are also assisting in rebuilding Iraq's economic and governmental infrastructure, and training and preparing Iraqi

military and security forces to assume full authority and responsibility in defending and preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence as a democracy.

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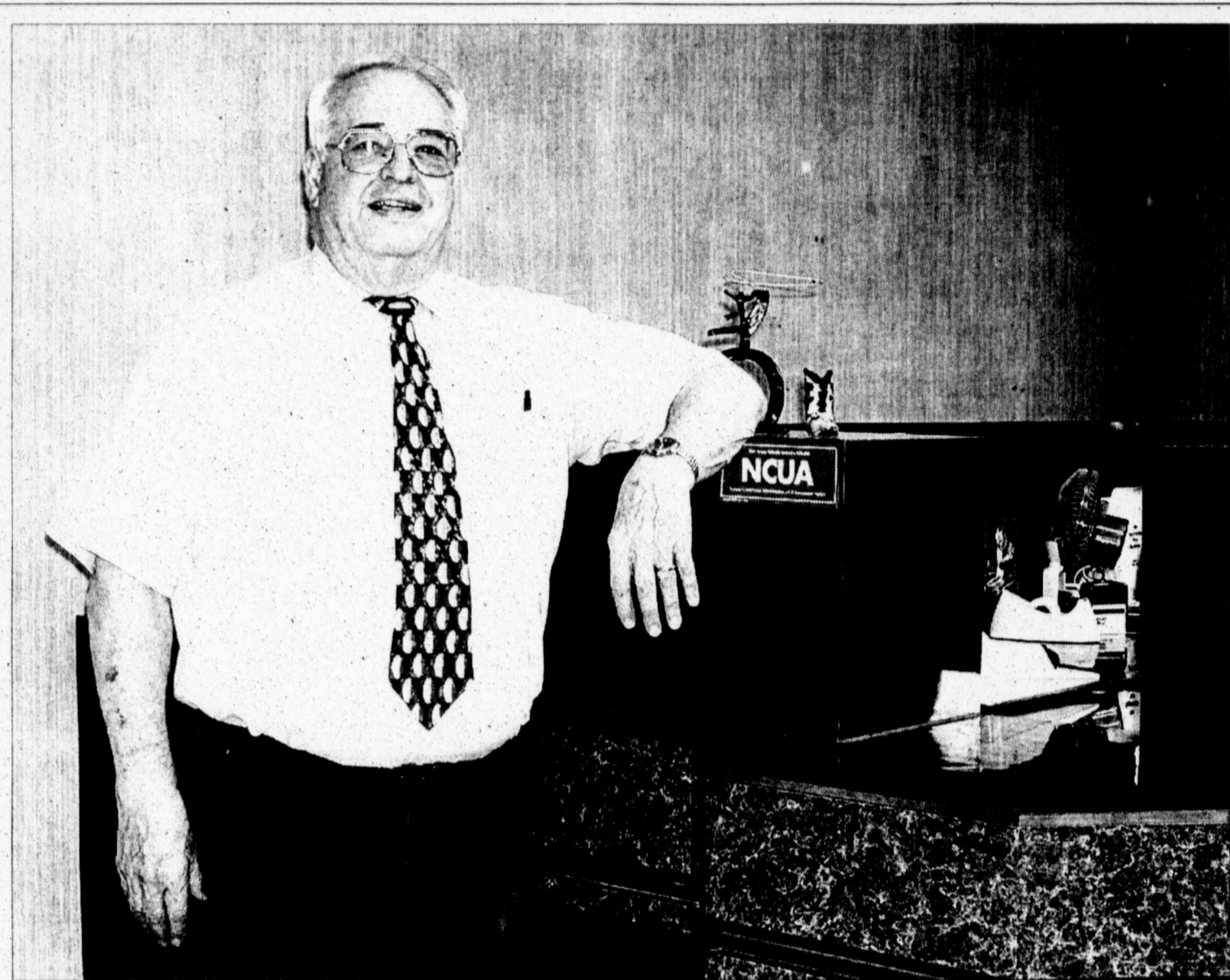
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Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Big Spring Education Employees Credit Union President Billy Schaffner retires after serving 32 years in the credit union business. A reception in his honor is planned for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Credit Union president believes he will really enjoy his retirement

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

Billy Schaffner, Big Spring Education Employees Credit Union retiring president, will celebrate his 32-year career with an achievement award and recognition from his peers.

He received a Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Credit Union League Big Spring Chapter of Credit Unions at a board meeting March 17.

"I think I will like retirement, although I will miss coming into work every day. But I know I'll find something to do. I'm just not the type to sit around all day doing nothing, that's just not me," said Schaffner from his office at the credit union.

He will end a career spanning nearly four decades with a special reception in his honor from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday at the cred-

it union, 1110 Benton St. As president of the credit union's board of directors, Schaffner said he has thoroughly enjoyed his work with all the credit union members and his employees.

"I'm just not the type to sit around all day doing nothing, that's just not me."

which number 12 full-time and three part-time in the Big Spring office.

He supervises an additional four employees at the Colorado City branch of the credit union. In the course of his tenure with the business, he has seen the membership

grow from about 1,400 members and \$1.7 million in assets to more than 4,300 members in 2005, with \$28 million in assets. And he has seen the building through two different expansions.

"When I came here in 1973, this was a brand new building," he said.

Schaffner applied for the position of manager of the Big Spring location in 1973, while a field representative for the Texas Credit Union League, based in Amarillo. He said he decided the traveling required was too great a sacrifice for his young family.

"I was a jack of all trades. I balanced a lot of books and took care of trouble within the service area, which included Abilene to El Paso when I was in Odessa and Amarillo to Lubbock to Wichita

See RETIRE, Page 5C

Toxic plants

Area specialists say producers should watch livestock closely right now

FORT STOCKTON — Unprecedented wet weather in Far West Texas the past two years have pastures in full bloom this spring. But with every silver lining comes a cloud according to two Texas Cooperative Extension specialists here.



TOMMY YEATER

Livestock specialist Dr. Bruce Carpenter, and range specialist Dr. Charles Hart, said even normally non-toxic plants can kill livestock under the right circumstances.

"Some desirable forbs are testing as high as 25 percent crude protein," said Carpenter. "This can cause cattle to bloat and die, just like they sometimes do on lush wheat or alfalfa pastures."

Carpenter said cattle suffering from bloat may need to be removed from the pasture, given appropriate veterinary treatment, and placed on dry hay to recover.

Locoweed poisoning is also causing problems. Hart said the weed is especially toxic to horses and cattle, though sheep and goats can also be affected.

"Animals usually have to eat the plant for about two months before signs of poisoning appear," said Hart. "Animals can recover from mild cases if removed from the pasture. But permanent brain damage occurs once the animal becomes 'locoed.' Signs include excessive excitability, especially in horses; low head carriage; trembling;

difficulty eating and drinking; abortion or weak or deformed offspring.

"Often, once animals begin to eat the plant, they continue to seek it out. So about the only practical way to remedy the problem is to remove the affected animal and place it in a pasture with little or no locoweed."

Hart said peavine or emory loco is an annual variety that grows mainly in and around limestone hills. Its toxin, and poisoning signs are different from other species of locoweed, though the treatment for affected animals is the same. The plant causes coordination problems in the animal's hind legs.

Tansy mustard is another plant causing problems across much of its range said the two specialists. Normally, when consumption is moderate, it's a desirable, nutritious forage. But this year is an exception.

"It's causing problems in two ways," said Carpenter. "Tansy mustard contains an unidentified chemical that causes tongue paralysis and blindness in cattle.

Affected cattle often begin 'head-pressing.' They stand and press their heads against immobile objects. Because they are blind, they don't eat or drink so death occurs through dehydration and rumen impaction. Most will recover though if removed from the affected pasture, re-hydrated, and fed.

Hart said there is some indirect evidence that tansy mustard is also causing sudden death via nitrate poisoning.

See TOXIC, Page 10C

Blockbuster drops bid for Hollywood Entertainment

Movie Gallery likely to get the deal now

DALLAS (AP) — Blockbuster Inc., the nation's leading movie-rental chain, abandoned its bid Friday to buy rival Hollywood Entertainment Corp. in the face of opposition from the smaller company's directors and resistance from federal antitrust regulators.

Instead, Hollywood is all but certain to go to Movie Gallery Inc., the No. 3 rental chain, creating a new and larger competitor to Blockbuster.

Dallas-based Blockbuster let its hostile bid for Hollywood shares expire Friday and said it would not extend the offer.

"Our decision not to extend our offers was reached after a careful review of all of the available facts and circumstances," Blockbuster chief executive John Antioico said.

Blockbuster had offered \$14.50 in cash and stock per share, or about \$985

million for all of Hollywood's shares and options. Movie Gallery offered \$13.25 cash per share, or about \$900 million.

The price difference between the bids, however, was not as crucial as the fact that Movie Gallery won swift antitrust approval while Blockbuster ran into problems at the Federal Trade Commission.

Blockbuster conceded that it was unlikely to resolve hurdles at the FTC before Hollywood shareholders vote on the Movie Gallery bid April 22. The company had grown more pessimistic about overcoming FTC objections after a brief and futile meeting with regulators in Washington two weeks ago.

"It was always an uphill battle, given the number of stores (Blockbuster) already had," said Arvind Bhatia, an analyst with Southwest Securities in Dallas.

The FTC worried that a Blockbuster-Hollywood combination would have too much power over rental prices, the agency killed a Blockbuster-

Hollywood deal in 1999 on similar grounds. Blockbuster, however, argued that the FTC failed to consider competition that its stores face from online rental services such as Netflix Inc. and from cheap DVDs sold at discount stores.

The combined Movie Gallery-Hollywood chain will have about 4,500 stores and annual revenue of \$2.6 billion, second only to Dallas-based Blockbuster, which has nearly 5,800 U.S. stores and \$6 billion in revenue.

Bhatia said shares of Hollywood and Blockbuster were likely to fall when trading resumes Monday.

Hollywood shares closed Thursday at \$14.13, well above Movie Gallery's \$13.25 per share bid, which is now the only offer before shareholders.

Hollywood's board had opposed Blockbuster's bid and refused to let Blockbuster view financial information.

Hollywood said the Movie Gallery bid was better because of likely regulatory opposition to a deal

See MOVIES, Page 5C

BEST HOME CARE BUNNY



HERALD photo
Cindy Lopez, right, marketing director for Best Home Care, hands out Easter goodies to Christy Hernandez, Big Spring Herald assistant advertising manager, Thursday. The "Easter Bunny" accompanied Ms. Lopez's visits to various health care facilities and businesses throughout the day.

From left, Ben in H&R Block 100 winners

RETIRE

Continued from

Falls when

Amarillo.

"I got tired of ing and war home more,"

Born to Edward N. S. Cross Plains graduated from Plains High 1954. He

Draughons College in Abilene with an degree in acco 1956.

He married Jones, another Plains native, couple have

dren, Shane, v Big Spring, K Worth, a med

American Air daughter, Trac al nurse at a Burnet.

They also grandchildren more of them on his retirement he said.

"We want grandkids and their sporti They are all sports but we able to att

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From left, Becky and Randy Jones, along with little Reese Rutledge, show off a check for more than \$900 they won in H&R Block's "Double Your Refund" contest. According to H&R Block's Tommy Richmond, the Jones were among 100 winners nationwide in the contest.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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- Douglas Brown, 205 W. 14th, Monahans
- Wayne Carpenter, 3766 Patriot Dr. No. 10, Abilene
- Krishna Nicole Castillo, 942 Cherry St., Colorado City
- Stormi Chandler, 309 N. Bryan, Garden City
- Stephanie R. Daniels, 506 N. Ave. T, Snyder
- James Ditto, 501 W. 17th St., Big Spring
- Doyle Edmondson, 505 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
- Katherine Gladhill, CR 7670, Lubbock
- Roman Hines, 901 Baylor, Big Spring
- Sharon Annette James, 1311 W. Second Street, Big Spring
- Andres Juarez, Rt. 3 Box 389, Big Spring
- Randy Key, 20964 S. Hwy. 277, Christoval
- Jonathan Lanham, 3708 28th St., Lubbock
- Tracy Martin, 3198 Fruitland Farm Ct., San Angelo
- Judy Mata, 6309 E. Midway Rd., Big Spring
- Esiquei Moreno, 508 S.E. First St., Andrews

- Margarita Olivarez Ramirez, 538 Westover Road Apt. 223, Big Spring
- Sierra Ramos, 200 W. Estes Avenue, Mildand.
- Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo
- Veronica Rodriguez, 2609 Wasson Apt. 17, Big Spring
- Linda Salgado, 607 Caylor, Big Spring

District Court Filings:

- David A. Allen vs. Tonya L. Allen, divorce.
- Alisha Chaney vs. Keith Chaney, divorce.
- Donald Keith Van Dyken vs. Angela Michelle Van Dyken, divorce.
- Denisa Phelps-Jones vs. Jason Jones, divorce.
- Christopher Michael Salazar vs. Benita Kay Salazar, divorce.
- Quinton Dale Burton vs. Trelle Sue Burton, divorce.
- Sarah Jane Hinojosa vs. Enemencio P. Hinojosa, divorce.
- Estate of Coy Joe McCann (deceased) vs. In Re, family - other.
- Ronnie Covert vs. Johnny Ray Payne Jr. and Scenic Mountain Medical Center, civil - other.
- The State of Texas vs. Benigno Delarosa Jr., forfeiture.

MOVIES

Continued from Page 4C

said his company would continue to operate Hollywood as a separate chain with larger stores than Movie Gallery locations, many of which are in smaller communities. Johnson said the acquisition would not result in store closings or layoffs. "We probably will bring a little more financial discipline, focusing on being a low-cost provider," Johnson said. He said the new company would have more purchasing power to get better deals from suppliers. Larry Denedy, a spokesman for Hollywood, said of Blockbuster's retreat, "This is what we had said all along, that we thought (Blockbuster's bid) was going to run into problems."

with Blockbuster. Hollywood's founder and former CEO, Mark Wattles, added a twist to the saga this week by indicating he wanted to buy up to half the Hollywood stores, which could have helped pave the way for Blockbuster's bid to succeed. Steve Axinn, Movie Gallery's antitrust lawyer, called Wattles' offer a "last-ditch effort" to salvage Blockbuster's bid, but said it would not have been satisfactory to the FTC. FTC officials declined to comment Friday. Thomas Johnson, a spokesman for Dothan, Ala.-based Movie Gallery,

RETIRE

Continued from Page 4C

Falls when I was in Amarillo. "I got tired of the traveling and wanted to be home more," he said. Born to Ruby and Edward N. Schaffner in Cross Plains in 1936, he graduated from Cross Plains High School in 1954. He attended Draughtons Business College in Abilene, graduating with an associate's degree in accounting in 1956. He married Corene Jones, another Cross Plains native, in 1958. The couple have three children, Shane, who lives in Big Spring, Kyle of Fort Worth, a mechanic with American Airlines and a daughter, Tracey, a surgical nurse at a hospital in Burnet. They also have seven grandchildren and seeing more of them is one item on his retirement agenda, he said. "We want to visit the grandkids and watch their sporting events. They are all involved in sports but we've not been able to attend those

events before now," he said. He and Corene also plan to travel and have Hawaii in their scope of possible retirement adventures. "We're also talking about going on a cruise, and I have always wanted to visit Australia," he said. Schaffner said the first month of retirement will be spent at home, and he will be available for any problems his crew at the credit union might encounter. "I have a really good staff and I am leaving this in good hands. They know they can call me with anything, and I will be a consultant for a while," he said. During his career, Schaffner has served in various positions for several credit union committees and boards throughout the state. Politically active, he has twice traveled to Washington D.C. to promote legislation favorable to the credit union industry. He has also served on the board of the Big Spring Chapter of Credit Unions and the Southwest Education Credit Union Board Association, where he is serving a third term

that expires in July. "I am treasurer for that group, which I was elected to in 2002. I also served as treasurer for that board for two terms, 1991-1997," he said. He is also a member of the Kiwanis Club since 1978 and he has been president of that service organization for two different terms. He managed the financial records at his church, Baptist Temple, for 13-14 years, he said, and he plays the organ at the church. And he said he hopes to take up banjo playing in retirement. "I started out in high school band but I always wanted to play the organ.

I took lessons for two years when I was in Abilene from a teacher I found who was a professor of music for McMurry University," he said. An avid gardener, Schaffner said retirement will also find him enjoying the outdoors working in his yard. "It really hasn't sunk in yet but I do believe I will enjoy retirement. I guess you could say I'm greeting this with mixed emotions," he said. Marsha Sturdivant is the features editor for the Big Spring Herald. Contact her at 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.



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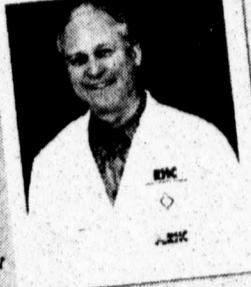
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Must have valid driver's license and be insurable under the Foundation's fleet insurance policy. Application may be obtained at the following office or on our Web site:
Garden City
127 Keathley
Garden City, Tx 79739
Reply to:
HR Dept., P.O. Box 5089
Arlene, TX 79608
Fax: (325)672-5034
Email: jobs@txbollweevil.org
Equal Opportunity Employer
Drug-Free Workplace
Pre-employment drug testing required



Regency Hospital of Odessa is an acute care hospital for patients who require critical care for a longer period of time than a traditional hospital is set up to provide.


We are a different kind of hospital with a different kind of culture. And it shows in everything we do. Here at Regency, you might just rediscover what it was you loved about caring for people.

Please use code B5HP32705 when forwarding your confidential resume to:
HR Regency Hospital
email: ksmith@regencyhospital.com
or fax: 432.333.2618
EOE

We are Growing and Seeking

Pharmacy Director

Sign-on Bonus
1 year exp in Acute Care Pharmacy TX Pharmacy License Relocation Allowance



DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South CR 221, Snyder, TX.

MARTIN COUNTY Hospital Home Health is taking applications for PRN LVN and PRN CNA positions. Fax applications to (432)756-4510 or call 756-3259. Ask for Allison Williams, R.N..

NEED EXPERIENCED R&R Man for local transmission shop. Must have own tools. Apply in person at Rick's Transmission, 608 E. 3rd. No Calls. Pay based on experience.

OIL FIELD Pump & Supply Company has open position for experienced Field Sales Rep. Salary D.O.E.. Send resume to: P.O. Box 2234, Big Spring, TX 79720.

PARK VILLAGE Apartments hiring experienced maintenance supervisor. Prefer AC certified and plumbing required. Competitive pay and benefits. Apply at 1905 Wasson Rd, 9:30am-noon, Monday-Friday.

PART TIME COOK Howard County Senior Citizens Center is seeking a part time cook. Dependable person required. Experience preferred. Pays \$7.00 per hour. Contact Bobbie Leonard at 432-267-1628.

PART-TIME ASSISTANT D.O.N. position available with growing Home Health Agency. Great opportunity for advancement. Apply at 1510 Scurry St, Suite C, Big Spring, TX 79720. Call (432)714-4510.

Drivers
GET SWIFT STRONG
Up to 38¢/mi
PLUS-- Strong Benefit pkg (Equal to 3¢/mi more!!)
PLUS-- Earn Bonuses from \$50-\$250 a month!
Many Hometown Options
"Low Cost CDL Training"



1-866-333-8801 EOE
www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com

Beautiful 160 state-of-the-art facility providing Long Term Care Seeking dedicated & professional staff Positions Available LVN'S
2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
10:00 pm - 6:00 am shifts
Competitive Wages- Excellent Health Insurance & Benefits. Contact Robin Petty, RN-DON @ Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1967
Equal Opportunity Employer

TRUCK DRIVER, 2 yrs. experience and must have clean CDL. Inquire @ Lone Star Auto 1505 W. 4th. Local Company. No phone calls.

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation NOW HIRING!
Seasonal Positions Available
• Field Technician
• Ground-Equipment Operator
• Assistant Field Unit Supervisor
Team environment, outdoor work. Must be at least 18 years old. Must have valid driver's license and be insurable under the Foundation's fleet insurance policy. No experience necessary. Ag background helpful. Some experience required for Assistant FUS position. For more information, apply in person:
Big Spring
1401 West I-20
Lamesa
1211 CR 19
Stanton
708 N. Lamesa Hwy
www.txbollweevil.org
Pre-employment drug testing required
Equal Opportunity Employer
Drug-Free Workplace

TUBING TESTER operator derrick team. Must pass drug test. Good wages. Call Jessica (432)267-5818 after 7:00 p.m. only!

Instructional
PIANO & VOICE LESSONS
Beginners through Advanced. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca Call (432)253-3367

Items for Sale
MOVING TRAILER 18' x 20' x 9,000# GVW with 6' ft removable sides. Used one time. 2000 miles. Like new. \$2,650.00. Call evenings. Leave message (432)264-9921

Miscellaneous
CAKES: Wedding, Anniversary, Quinceanera, 10% Discount on Arches, Candelabras, floral work order. Grisham (432)267-8191

WESTERN CONTAINER CORPORATION

Big Spring, Texas

Is looking for
PART ROOM ATTENDANT
Must be at least 18 years of age with High School Diploma or equivalent.

EXCELLENT PAY AND BENEFITS

- Salary commensurate with experience
- Medical, Dental, Vision and Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan • Short-Term Disability
- Tuition Reimbursement Program
- Paid Time Off • 9 Paid Holidays

DUTIES

- Shipping and Receiving Parts • Entering and Receiving Parts
- Investigating Pricing and Availability
- Tagging and Storing Parts • Physical Inventory and Reporting

QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong computer skills
- 1 year data entry into AS400 and/or 7i or equivalent helpful, but not required
- Strong communication skills • Ability to multi-task

Pick up an application at:
1600 1st Avenue, Big Spring, TX 79720
or fax to 432/263-8075 or call 432/263-8361

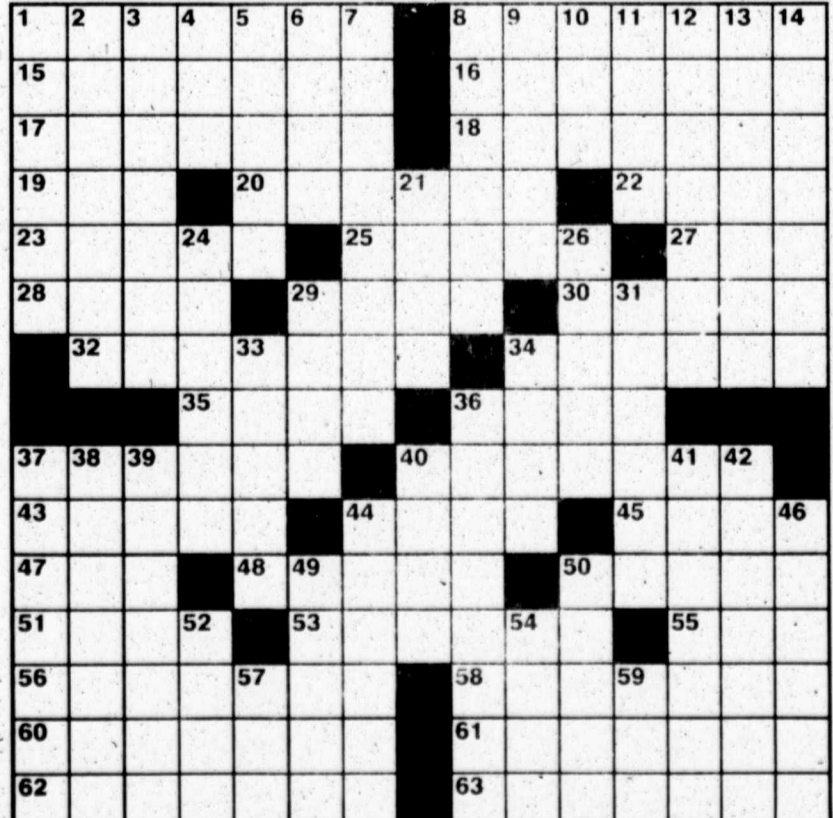
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Newsday Crossword SATURDAY STUMPER by Daniel R. Stark

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 55 Jeff Keane's dad | 8 Like old jokes | 38 Refined |
| 1 Inveigh | 56 Red hue | 9 Drama with music | 39 President Ford's dog |
| 8 Tot's outfit | 58 Camera carrier | 10 Deface | 40 My Darling Clementine hero |
| 15 Better | 60 Leads on | 11 Not diluted | 41 Albatross, for one |
| 16 Uniform detail | 61 Sign | 12 Goes by | 42 Artist with a law degree |
| 17 Talked big | 62 Artistic creator | 13 Take in | 44 Most faded |
| 18 High-rise amenity | 63 Fishtailed | 14 Heinz Field player | 46 Hit with hail |
| 19 Pothole filler | | 21 Firm up | 49 Lionesses' lack |
| 20 Post-production staffer | DOWN | 24 Happened next | 50 Riyadh resident |
| 22 Olympic sport | 1 One with a mortgage | 26 Refine | 52 Pianist Gilels |
| 23 Flirt, at times | 2 Hot | 29 Tropical fruits | 54 Bean |
| 25 Bubbly beverages | 3 Toon tuna | 31 Apply oil to | 57 French adverb |
| 27 "If it," to Lafitte | 4 Need to catch up | 33 Orange and cherry | 59 Scepter |
| 28 Harness part | 5 Tee off | 34 Walked over | |
| 29 Discovery | 6 Put in the cooler | 36 Stirs | |
| 30 Writer Binchy | 7 Pill, maybe | 37 Puts in danger | |



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2005 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 3/26/05

WEST TEXAS VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Big Spring, Texas

Keeping the Promise to Those Who Served

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PHYSICIANS
STAFF PHYSICIAN (Internal Med) - BC/BE in Internal Medicine
UROLOGIST - BC/BE in Urology

NURSING POSITIONS
NURSE/PATIENT EDUCATOR - Responsible for patient education program. BSN/Education experience required. MSN Preferred
REGISTERED NURSE/Head Nurse Operating Room
RN's for Med/Surg - Day/Night Relief; ETCU - Day/Night Relief
LVN's - All Areas

ALLIED HEALTH
CERTIFIED SPEECH PATHOLOGIST - Full Time or Part Time
CLINICAL PHARMACIST - Full Time

We offer:

10 paid holidays/Guaranteed Hours	Stable Work Environment 401(k) Plan
MDs - 30 days vacation	Child Care Tuition Assistance Program
RN's - 26 vacation days	Educational Assistance
LVN's/Allied Health - 13 vacation days leading to 26	Special salary pay (RN/LVN)
	Educational Debt Reduction (Certain Occupations)

For further information, contact Human Resources at 432-264-4820

JCAHO Certified EOE

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Miscellaneous

HEALTHY, SAFE & Environmentally Friendly Home & Personal Care Products Made with Tea Tree Oil NO Phosphates NO Formaldehyde NO Caustic Chemicals Works better or as good as store brands and \$ Costs Less \$ Call Tracey Vaughn, (432)268-9430

National Ads

GOVERNMENT JOBS! WILD-LIFE POSTAL \$16.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Call for Application and Exam Information. No Experience Necessary. Toll Free 1-888-269-6090 ext. 100.

Pets

AKC REGISTERED Miniature Dachshund puppies. Ready for good homes, with papers & copies of Sires AKC DNA test. \$200. each. Call (432)263-2733

MALE SHIH Tzu: female Jack Russell, Pomeranian male stud, all AKC registered. \$250 each. Also (1) female pup. \$100 each. For appt. (432)213-0425, 2102 Allen-circle

FREE TO good home, female Golden Retriever, 3 years old & spayed. Call (432)264-0712.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX Swimming Pool, Carports, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizen Discounts, 1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths Unfurnished KENTWOOD APARTMENTS 1934 East 25th Street, 267-5444, 263-5000

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD Swimming Pool, Private Patios, Carports, Appliances, Most Utilities Paid, Senior Citizens' Discount, 1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS 801 W. Marcy, 267-5444, 263-5000

2004 Johnson, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$199 month, \$100 deposit 1104 Stanford, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CHA \$335.00 month, \$150.00 deposit, (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options Such As ALL BILLS PAID \$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL - APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. 578 Westover 263-1252 Housing Assistance Accepted

Ponderosa Apartments

A Nice Place For Nice People • All Utilities Paid • One Bedroom - 820 sq. ft. • Two Bedroom One Bath - 1080 sq. ft. • Two Bedroom Two Bath - 1280 sq. ft. • Three Bedroom Two Bath - 1800 sq. ft. 1425 E. 6th • 263-6319

FOR SALE No Down Payment OWNER FINANCING Bad Credit O.K. 2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes Call Beverly 263-3461

Real Estate for Rent

1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms Rent Based on Income NORTHCREST APARTMENTS 1002 North Main Big Spring, TX (432)267-5191

1809 Johnson: 2/1 bath, washer, dryer connections, new paint & carpet. \$525. month, \$275. deposit 407 & 407-1/2 East 8th - 1/1 bath, \$250. month, \$150. deposit All have CHA. Call (432)267-2296.

2008 SCURRY, 2 Bedroom, Refrigerated air, fenced backyard. Nice neighborhood. References. Perfect for single or couples. \$350/month, \$300/deposit. Call (432)267-5629.

628 CAYLOR, Three Bedroom, one bath, \$325. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)267-5386

702 WEST 18TH, 3 Bedroom 2 bath, CH/A with fenced yard. \$525. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)267-7449.

BUILDING FOR LEASE on 1308 North HWY 350, \$200.00 month plus \$200.00 deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000.

FOR RENT 1516 Wood, Four bedroom, one bath, \$350. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

FOR RENT, two bedroom, partially furnished, new carpet, fresh paint, carport, fenced yard. Near Wal-Mart. Call 432-268-1272.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS 403 E. 8th Street Spacious 1 Bedroom's Furnished & Unfurnished All bills paid \$200.00 Move in Special \$200.00 deposit Call (432)267-2771

LARGE, Clean 1 room apartment. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Call (432)263-4528, (432)296-0277.

Nicest Apartments in area 700 sq ft one bedroom \$150.00 move-in CORONADO HILLS APTS. (432)267-6500 801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx 79720

READY NOW 1 Bdrm, Apt. \$165/month Fxt. cable incl. Wont last!!! (432)263-2292 Melinda

SUNSET RIDGE APARTMENTS 2911 West Hwy 80 1 & 2 Bedrooms Cable TV Service Central Heat & A/C Friendly Staff On-site Maintenance Laundry Facility "Move in Special" Call (432)263-2292

Real Estate for Rent

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, 2530 Fairchild, huge backyard. \$450. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

THREE BEDROOM, three bath, three car garage on one acre. Forsan ISD \$750. month, \$1,000. deposit. By appointment, call (432)264-9907.

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marijo, New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

1211 EAST 18th, 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/2 car detached garage. Tile, hardwood, carpet floors. Updated kitchen. Den w/fireplace, fenced yard w/storage shed. Nice quiet neighborhood. \$45,000.00. Call (432)264-0293.

2 STORY House in great condition. 3 Bedroom, 2 living areas, office, fireplace 2 large storage buildings, large gazebo, 2150 sq. ft., 3/4 acre. Beautiful yard. \$105,000. (432)263-4080.

20 ACRES on Hwy 176 Set up for Mobile Home, 45K, \$6,500.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 30 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath house on 40 acres for Sale, w/harm and work shop, in Coahoma School District. \$224,000.00 For appointment call (432)263-0658 or 816-9565.

800 N. Tubb Rd. MFG Home, 3/2, total electric, CHA, carport & shop Coahoma District. Fenced 1 acre. \$55,000.00. Owner will consider financing 10% down. Call 1-432-213-4460.

COAHOMA REBUILT Home, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths. New Ref. air, new dishwasher, new oak cabinets, new carpet. All insulated windows. New paint inside & out. 412 South 2nd. \$45,000.00. No Owner Finance. Call Kenny Thompson (432)270-0548 or 263-4548.

COMPLETELY REMODELED, new tile, hardwoods, carpet, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 2501 Ann. Call for appointment, (432)263-0786

DON'T PASS This One Up. Priced to Sell! Newly remodeled 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, beautiful fenced yards, large workshop, storage shed. By appointment only (432)267-1883

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

Answer to previous puzzle
J A B S T A K E N F O A L
E C R U E N U R E R A G A
S L A M O N T H E B R A K E S
T U G R A I N O N S E T
B A N S B M O C
A S P E C T C L A S S I C S
I T A L L D A I S N A N
M A S T E R O F S C I E N C E
A R T A P E S G R E T A
T R A P E Z E S T O R R I D
L A Z Y B I T S
S L I E R A U D I H O G
T O T A L C O M M I T M E N T
A G E S S C A P E A R L O
T O M E A T T Y S T O Y S

Real Estate for Sale

FOR SALE by owner. 605 McEwen. Two bedroom, one bath, two living areas, CHA, fenced yard, storage building. \$1,500. down. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORTGAGES. (254)947-4475. www.homeland46.com

WILL PAY Cash for Houses up to \$25,000.00. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1001 N. Gregg. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1500 Kentucky Way Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

NO DOWN Payment on 2 thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 4th 267-7424
03 MUSTANG Cobra SVT. Low mileage, after market wheels. A must see. \$30,000. Call (432)264-0452.

CUSHMAN GOLF car, very good condition, new batteries, new top, new tires, ball washer. \$1,050. Call (432)213-0426.

Legals

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC WORKS March 23, 2005 PUBLIC NOTICE An Ordinance of the City of Big Spring, Texas, authorizing and directing the City Manager to designate the placement and maintenance of a four way stop intersection at South Scurry and 24th Street (State Law provides that it is a misdemeanor offense to run a stop sign punishable by a fine up to \$200.00 (or conviction); and providing for publication. Big Spring City Code Sec. 18-133 - Stop Intersections. Authorizes the City Manager to designate and maintain stop intersections on streets as directed by the City Council. #4496 March 25 & 27, 2005.

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

Explore Your World! All you have to do is Read. BIG SPRING HERALD

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEASE LAND FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION Pursuant to the authority granted by the City Council of Big Spring, Texas, sealed bids will be received until 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 30, 2005, for consideration of leasing the following described land for oil and gas exploration and production:

The South Half of the South Half (S/2 S/2) of Section 15, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P Ry Co Survey, Howard County, Texas, being part of that 333.0 acre tract, more or less, out of and part of Section 15, Block 31, T-1-S, T&P Ry Co Survey, Howard County, Texas, more fully described by metes and bounds in that certain deed dated March 16, 1939, by and between Louie Hutto, et al. and the City of Big Spring, Texas and recorded in Volume 103, Page 506, of the Deed Records of Howard County, Texas.

Bids will be considered at the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 East 4th Street, Big Spring, Texas, at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, April 12, 2005, during regularly scheduled City Council meeting. Bid information and specifications may be obtained from the office of the Public Works Director, 2nd Floor City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Texas. All bids must be marked with the date of bid and general description of bid terms.

The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any or all formalities. Signed: Russ McEwen, Mayor Attest: Peggy Walker, City Secretary #4485 March 13, 20, 27, 2005.

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE The Forsan Independent School District, Forsan, Texas is accepting bids for the following: Year 2005 Improvements (New Baseball/ Softball Field) for Forsan ISD. All bids must be submitted by 3:00 P.M. local time, April 12, 2005 and addressed to or faxed to: Randy Johnson, Superintendent Forsan ISD C/o Grimes and Associates 21103 FM 179 Wolfford, Texas 79382 Fax: (806)863-2479 Plans, Bid Packages and Specifications are available and may be acquired from: Grimes and Associates, Consulting Engineers, L.P. P.O. Box 65 Wolfford, TX 79382, 806-863-2462 www.grimesengineering.com

Separate bids will be received for each bid package or a combination of bid packages. A Pre Bid Conference will be held at 3:00 P.M., local time, March 29, 2005. All interested parties should meet at the Superintendent's Office, Forsan, Texas.

The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waive all formalities. #4493 March 27 & April 3, 2005

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE: These Texas Lottery Commission scratch-off games will close on April 30, 2005. You have until October 27, 2005, to redeem any tickets for these games: #500 JUMBO BUCKS (\$2) overall odds are 1 in 4.53, #514 12 DAYS OF WINNING (\$10) overall odds are 1 in 2.49, #517 DECK THE HALLS (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.26, #519 PINBALL (\$3) overall odds are 1 in 4.66, #521 FABULOUS 5'S (\$5) overall odds are 1 in 3.63. The odds listed here are the overall odds of winning any prize in a game, including break-even prizes. Lottery retailers are authorized to redeem prizes of up to and including \$599. Prizes of \$600 or more must be claimed in person at a Lottery Claim Center or by mail with a completed Texas Lottery claim form; however, annuity prizes or prizes over \$999,999 must be claimed in person at the Commission Headquarters in Austin. Call Customer Service at 1-800-37-LOTTO or visit the Lottery Web site at www.txlottery.org for more information and location of nearest Claim Center. The Texas Lottery is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, or for tickets lost in the mail. Tickets, transactions, players, and winners are subject to, and players and winners agree to abide by, all applicable laws, Commission rules, regulations, policies, directives, instructions, conditions, procedures, and final decisions of the Executive Director. A scratch-off game may continue to be sold even when all the top prizes have been claimed. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a Texas Lottery ticket. Play Responsibly. Remember, it's just a game. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education by contributing to the Foundation School Fund. #4489 March 27, 2005

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Separate bids will be received for each bid package or a combination of bid packages. A Pre Bid Conference will be held at 3:00 P.M., local time, March 29, 2005. All interested parties should meet at the Superintendent's Office, Forsan, Texas.

The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waive all formalities. #4493 March 27 & April 3, 2005

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC NOTICE March 23, 2005 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT LOCATED AT 1103 EAST 11TH PLACE, LOTS 9, 10, 11, 12 OF BLOCK 5, HIGHLAND PARK ADDITION AS PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE 22ND DAY OF MARCH 2005; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW. #4499 March 25 & 27, 2005

CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC WORKS PUBLIC NOTICE March 23, 2005 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BIG SPRING, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT LOCATED AT 1103 EAST 11TH PLACE, LOTS 9, 10, 11, 12 OF BLOCK 5, HIGHLAND PARK ADDITION AS PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON THE 22ND DAY OF MARCH 2005; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION AND FINDING AND DETERMINING THAT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ORDINANCE WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS REQUIRED BY LAW. #4499 March 25 & 27, 2005

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Legals

INVITATION Sealed proposals Mr. John Grant, of the Colorado Water District, with the office of the Municipal Water 869, 400 E. 24th S Texas 79721, until 21, 2005 at 2:00 p of the following item Pump Cont Valve Contr

At this time and als will be publ read aloud Any l closing time will and will be retu opened. Specifications are on file tained by written r dress above (432)267-6341. A bid security bo forth in the instru Performance and are required for shall be execut provided in these ments.

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At this time and als will be publ read aloud Any closing time will and will be return opened. Specifications are on file tained by written r dress above (432)26

Legals

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to Mr. John Grant, General Manager of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, will be received at the office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District, P.O. Box 869, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79721, until Thursday, April 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. for furnishing of the following items:

- Pump Control Valves And Valve Control Systems

At this time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing time will not be accepted and will be returned to sender unopened.

Specifications and contract documents are on file and may be obtained by written request to the address above or by calling (432)267-6341.

A bid security bond shall be as set forth in the instructions to Bidders. Performance and Payment Bonds are required for this contract and shall be executed on the forms provided in these Contract Documents.

In case of ambiguity or lack of clarity in stating proposed prices, the Colorado River Municipal Water District reserves the right to adopt the most advantageous construction thereof, to reject any or all bids, and to waive formalities. The District anticipates that it will notify the successful bidder(s) by issuing a Purchase Order within thirty (30) days after the bid date. No bid may be withdrawn within one hundred twenty (120) days after date on which bids are opened.

COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

John Grant, General Manager
#4502 March 27 & April 10, 2005.

Legals

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR WATER QUALITY TPDES PERMIT RENEWAL FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER
PERMIT NO. W00010069001
APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of TPDES Permit No. 10069-001, which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at an annual average flow not to exceed 3,800,000 gallons per day. This application was submitted to the TCEQ on October 7, 2004.

The facility is located on the north side of Eleventh Street, approximately 1,000 feet east of the intersection of Farm-to-Market Road 700 and Eleventh Street in Howard County, Texas. The treated effluent is discharged to Beals Creek; thence to the Colorado River below Lake J.B. Thomas in Segment No. 1412 of the Colorado River Basin. The unclassified receiving water uses are limited aquatic life uses for Beals Creek. The designated uses for Segment No. 1412 are high aquatic life use and contact recreation.

The TCEQ executive director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The executive director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, fact sheet and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at City Hall, City of Big Spring, 310 Nolan Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

PUBLIC COMMENT PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit written or oral comment or to ask questions about the application. Generally, the TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the executive director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

Written public comments and requests for a public meeting should be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 within 30 days of the date of newspaper publication of the notice.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for public comments, the executive director will consider the comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. The response to comments, along with the executive director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments or who requested to be on a mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the executive director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court. A contested case hearing will only be granted based on disputed issues of fact that are relevant and material to the Commission's decision on the application. Further, the commission will only grant a hearing on issues that were raised during the public comment period and not withdrawn. Issues that are not raised in public comments may not be considered during a hearing. **The TCEQ may act on this application to renew a permit without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The executive director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or a timely request for reconsideration if filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the executive director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and requests to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, you may ask to be placed on a mailing list to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. You may request to be added to: (1) the mailing list for this specific application; (2) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (3) the permanent mailing list for a specific county. Clearly specify which mailing list(s) to which you wish to be added and send your request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Unless you otherwise specify, you will be included only on the mailing list for this specific application.

INFORMATION. If you need more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Office of Public Assistance, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at our web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Big Spring at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Todd Darden, Director of Public Works, at (432)264-2500. Issued: March 5, 2005
#4491 March 27, 2005

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Happy Easter! The word "Easter" is derived from the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, "Eastre."



HOLIDAY MATHIS

The tradition of dyeing eggs, the symbol of fertility, is one that has been carried out around the time of the spring equinox by several ancient cultures. More than a few Easter eggs will go undetected this year. The Scorpio moon loves a mystery!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're results driven, but not sure where to start on your journey toward the goal. Consider adopting techniques you haven't tried before, like mediation, hypnosis or life coaching. Pisces mentors are lucky.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes you set traps for yourself. Stop! Take hold of your psyche, and command yourself to do the things you've been procrastinating! Identify any action you take to deter your own progress as "dangerous."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's only Sunday, but you need a respite from work already! Go where you can sit back and observe your efforts, knowing that each action brings you closer. Celebrating small wins will carry you toward a

Tomorrow's Horoscope

huge one.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). You want to be cherished, and why shouldn't you be? Start with self-love. Be ridiculous about it! Buy a card, fill it to the brim with loving words and admiring thoughts, and send it to yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Generous soul, you're sometimes giving for the wrong reasons. Anyway, obligatory gifts fall flat. Search your big heart to find the genuine affection you feel for your fellow being. Give from that place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This could be the perfect day. Set it up that way from the start. Give yourself easy things to accomplish, and do these tasks first. When your head hits the pillow tonight, you'll feel like a winner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You rebel against someone controlling. You can do this with humor and tact, if you try. Actually, what this person lacks is creativity and fun — and that's just what you can provide. You're a teacher.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not winter, and you're not a squirrel. But this is still the perfect time to store up your nuts to get you through the barren season. Precautionary measures are lucky and attract respect from your peers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships have their prickly points. You'll be ironing out differences. Conflict melts

away when both parties feel heard. There is nothing more powerful than you can give than your undivided attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Just because someone brings you a problem doesn't mean you're automatically in charge of fixing it. Learn how to detach yourself from drama, carefully picking and choosing your battles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You give others the gift of your attention. Loved ones sometimes astound you with their strange interests. When you try to relate to what is important to them, you'll see them brighten.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's true that new sources of tension and difficult people come into your life now. But remember that anxiety is a choice. Trust your process and your fate. The universe is on your side!

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The Aries energy is kicking this week with the Sun, Mercury and Venus all in the fire sign! If Aries energy were a food, it would be a chili pepper. Like the pepper, Aries is red hot. Think of chili cookout contestants battling it out to see who's No. 1. (Because Aries is the first sign of the zodiac, No. 1 is the only number to be.) Eat enough chili peppers and a person is sure to sweat — another Aries influence. No wonder this is a favored sign of athletes and those

who like to work up a good sweat by arguing their point. Also, chili peppers are said to be an aphrodisiac, and Aries energy is all about prowess and stamina. Perhaps most importantly, Aries energy is notorious for motivating a person to get up and DO something — like run for a glass of water. The Sun and Venus are in close quarters this week, too, challenging our ideas about how much we deserve to be loved. Whatever the amount we think we deserve, we're sure to get exactly that, so think generously!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aerosmith front man Steven Tyler is the quintessential rock singer and an ever-young, fiery Aries — that explains a lot. Aries is known to be impulsive, rebellious and daring, which is what rock and roll is all about. I also see another child in Tyler's future, creating an interesting familial situation in which one of his children will be younger than his grandchildren.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My son, "Steve," is 19 years old. He failed out of college the first year and moved back home. He has a full-time job working heavy construction, seems to be reliable on the job and is friendly with all the people he works with.

The problem is that Steve has no ambition other than to go to work. He is overweight, doesn't keep his room clean or do his laundry, and he leaves dirty dishes wherever he is. It's not how I want my house to look.

Steve pays rent, of course, but I don't know how to approach him about his slovenly ways. I am particularly worried that he might suffer from depression, which runs in my family. Two years ago, I suggested he see his doctor about it, and he was given an antidepressant. But Steve claims the pills made him tired, so he stopped taking them.

Annie, deep inside, I feel something is wrong with my son. Do you have any suggestions on how to approach him? — Just Want to Scream

Dear Scream: At the age of 19, many young people seem aimless, and sloppiness is not necessarily a symptom of depression. Steve is working, he is reliable, he earns a steady income and he pays rent. Are there other factors that make you worry about his mental health? Be careful not to attribute your fears to your son,



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

who may be doing just fine.

As long as Steve confines his mess to his own room, you should leave it alone, but he should be encouraged to move into his own apartment. If you truly believe he is depressed, suggest he go back to his doctor and mention that the medication made him sleepy. There are other medications available, although if Steve is resistant to taking antidepressants, he may benefit more from traditional talk therapy.

Dear Annie: I am engaged to a wonderful man who is vegan, which means he doesn't eat or use any animal byproducts. I recently have stopped eating meat, too.

It is important to me that my fiance feels comfortable when we visit my family — Midwestern farmers who have been raising and slaughtering their own livestock for generations. Would it be rude to bring along some vegan foods that my family can enjoy? How do I explain our dietary choices without offending them? — Midwest Miss

Dear Miss: As long as you don't lecture, no one should be offended, and regardless of what the family prepares, you and your fiance should be able to find something to eat that won't compromise your beliefs.

But don't wait until you arrive to spring this on your folks, who may prepare a carnivore's feast in anticipation. Call them and say, "Eddie doesn't eat anything prepared

with meat products, and I have stopped eating meat as well. If it's OK with you, we would love to cook a vegan meal for the family." We hope they're gastronomically flexible.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "No Name, No City," who complained about church groups asking for money so kids can go on "exotic trips."

I'm a 21-year-old college student and quite active in my church. Most of us participate in overseas trips as a way of giving back. We go to Haiti for a week to build raincatchers, and we live like the locals, sleeping on the ground in huts.

We build cinderblock homes in Honduras in 80-degree weather while sleeping in a reed shack for two weeks. These are not luxury vacations; they are a way to help those who cannot help themselves.

Those who do not wish to donate to these programs do not have to. But those who refuse should at least know where the money is going. — Ticked Off MSU Student in Michigan

Dear MSU: Thank you for clarifying the purpose behind these trips and the good that they do. It's the perfect reminder for Easter Sunday.

Dear Annie: Four years ago, my husband and I moved back to his hometown so we could be closer to his parents, who are getting older. We also wanted our children to know their grandparents better.

At the time, we had a lot of things in storage, including photograph albums, baby clothes, and items that belonged to my mother and were precious to me. My in-laws have a large storage unit on their property and said we were welcome to use it.

My in-laws left town last week and asked us to keep an eye on their place. Yesterday, my husband and children returned from my in-laws' with a small vase and a Santa Claus that I recognized as mine. The items were

blackened and charred. The kids said they had found them in Grandma and Grandpa's burn pile.

I thought our things were safe, but obviously my in-laws have been burning our belongings. I cried all day, wondering what other precious items were destroyed. I don't understand how they could do such a horrible and heartless thing. I've tried to maintain a good relationship with my in-laws, even though I know they don't like me.

They criticize me to my children, and until now, I have said nothing. My husband can hardly believe his parents would be so cruel, and he doesn't know how to handle it.

Should I confront my in-laws? Maybe if they see this letter in your column, they will recognize themselves and I won't have to. — Sad Daughter-in-Law

Dear Daughter-in-Law: We are appalled by your in-laws' behavior and cannot think of any excuse good enough to justify such disregard.

First, you need to check the remaining boxes in the storage building and see what is missing. Then, you and your husband should bring the charred Santa and vase to your in-laws' home when they return. Tell them where they were found, and ask them point-blank to explain themselves. We hope nothing else has been burned, and we trust you will remove the boxes from your in-laws' property immediately.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Chief executive outlines vision for Broadcom

(KRT) — As the newly minted chief executive of Broadcom, Scott McGregor surrounds his Irvine, Calif., office with circuit boards and cell phones powered by his company's chips.

He likens the display to "show and tell" — a chance to give playmates a glimpse of his cool toys. "That was my favorite part of school," McGregor said.

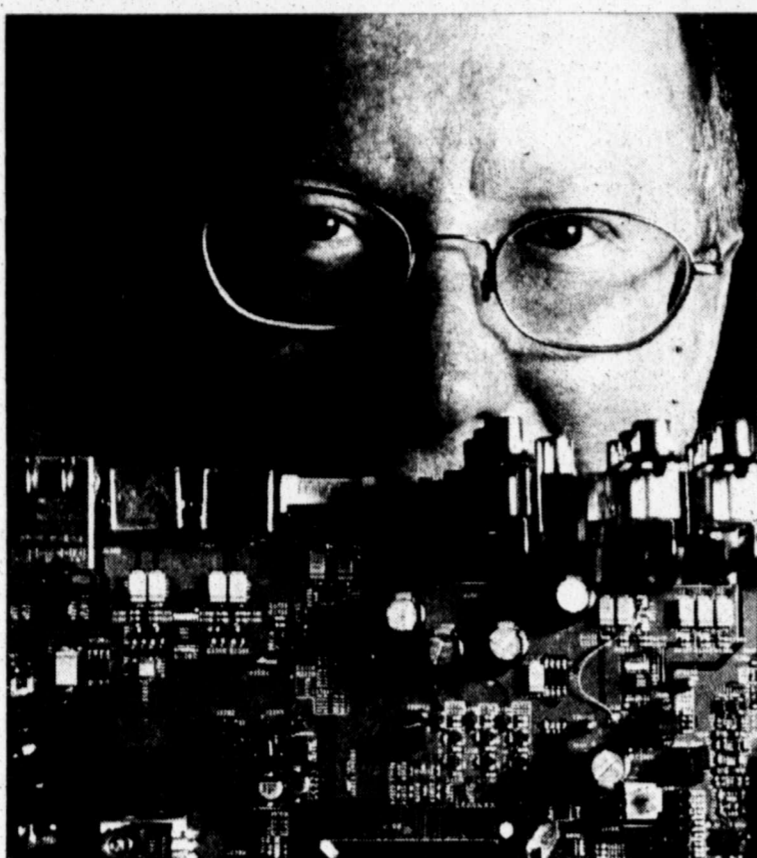
Now 48, McGregor is still as giddy as a schoolboy when promoting his latest gadgets. First, there's the digital TV circuit board, a panel fitted with Wheat Thins-size chips that are responsible for the crisp picture quality of a plasma TV.

Then, there's the set-top box, its guts filled with wafers that help deliver your favorite TV show. Making those items hum, McGregor explains, is what "I do" for a living.

And, as he leads one of Orange County, Calif.'s largest technology companies, McGregor plans to "collect" more visuals for his show-and-tell display.

He has his work cut out for him. Broadcom rebounded last year from the dot-com bubble, recording a record \$2 billion in sales and posting its first profit since 1999. Still, analysts are predicting flat sales for Broadcom and the entire semiconductor industry for 2005.

McGregor is charged with maintaining Broadcom's lead in set-top boxes, while gaining more momentum in providing chips for Bluetooth technologies, digital TVs and cell phones. He's especially smitten with the latter, believing mobile phones will one day be used by the masses for playing digital music, taking pictures, shooting



KRT photo/Leonard Ortiz
Scott McGregor, shown in February 2005 in Irvine, Calif., is the new CEO of Broadcom, a maker of semiconductors.

video and, oh yes, talking.

"The cell phone will be a Swiss Army knife of functionality," said McGregor, who keeps a BlackBerry in his pocket.

McGregor talked about his vision for Broadcom during a recent interview.

Q. How do you explain what you do to non-techies?

A. We make the chip that makes your digital television work. Do you like the cable modem at home? Do you like high-speed Internet? We make the chip that makes that work. We touch people's lives and we create the magic that enables people to communicate from talking on the phone to using computers.

Q. Speaking of computers, enterprise networking is your core division. Do you plan to expand there, or ramp up in other areas?

A. We expect growth in all of our businesses,

including networking products. What's happening is more and more devices are becoming networked and the kind of products we create allows people to work more cost effectively. (He pulls out a circuit board the size of a small slate.

Filled with Broadcom chips, the board can run all the data for a small company, replacing a giant mainframe.) This is dramatically cheaper and has better performance.

This is the kind of stuff that will make a difference for small- to medium-size businesses.

Q. What's excites you about Broadcom?

A. The company has a real entrepreneurial spirit. It's like a big start-up company. There's a lot of autonomy for the people. There's a feeling that we can go create new things and drive new markets, and so that's the kind of entrepreneurial spirit I

want to keep alive.

Q. What new markets do you want to enter?

A. We have an opportunity to go into the consumer market, such as cell phones and digital televisions.

Q. What kind of leader are you? A visionary, or a detail guy?

A. I'm a mix. I like strategy. But if a group is not performing, they'll see a lot more of me. If a group is performing, I think it's important to give them autonomy.

Q. You are coming in as Broadcom's first "outside" leader. How does that help or hinder you?

A. As an outsider, I haven't been affiliated with Broadcom. But we're in the same industry. (McGregor previously ran Philips Semiconductor's.) Broadcom's been a competitor of mine. Broadcom's been a customer of mine.

At Philips, we sold things to Broadcom. They are part of an industry I play in, and it's a chance to move to a different square on the chessboard.

And, from a different square on the chessboard, you see different opportunities, and different threats.

Q. You mentioned earlier that Broadcom was a demanding place to work. How so?

A. I think the people here really enjoy their jobs and know they're changing the industry. We hire the best and the brightest and we want to win.

Q. What do you think about voice over IP (using the phone through the Internet)?

A. Everybody believes that's where things are headed. The technology is not quite ready for prime time. One of the things people want is to have a

seamless handoff. So, I'm in my car talking on my cellular phone, and when I walk into my house, the phone switches to my Voice over IP and I wouldn't know it.

Q. When will it be ready for the masses?

A. It requires the cooperation of the cell phone carriers and landline carriers.

Q. How much technology has been kept from us because the big guys don't want it because it will upset short-term numbers?

A. This is a story that's repeated itself. Take mainframes. You had IBM who couldn't see their way to get into mini computers because it would cut into their mainframe business. The companies that are brave enough to cannibalize their own business are the ones that will succeed. Voice over IP is at that crux right now. The struggle is how do you roll this out.

Will the traditional guys get with the program fast enough?

Q. Why are you so interested in cell phones?

A. The cell phone is the ultimate convergence device. Eventually, you'll download clips on everything from infomercials to weather and traffic conditions. Once the phone knows where it is (through GPS tracking), it will be able to tell you where the nearest restaurant is. This is real exciting stuff, and we're one of the few companies that can put that (technology) in one chip.

Q. Is it a challenge to come into a job where things are going well, instead of walking into the debacle?

A. Yes and no. This is a volatile enough industry.

It's always changing. It sort of doesn't matter what it was when I came in. It's what do I make of it after a few years here.

TOXIC

Continued from Page 4C

"To date, there have been several documented cases of nitrate poisoning in cattle across the region," Hart said.

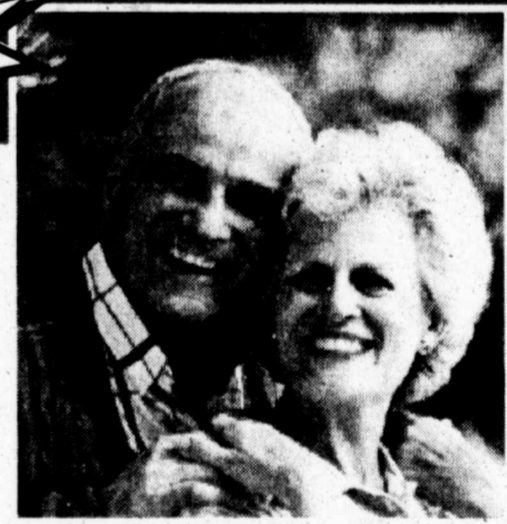
"We've got other weeds that will do the same thing, but they are not up and growing yet. Tansy mustard is. We know the plant can accumulate nitrates when warm days produce rapid growth that is suddenly interrupted by a freeze, or even just cloudy and cold weather; which we've had a lot of lately." People are often confused between tansy mustard and its more robust cousin — London rocket mustard. As far as anyone knows says Hart, London rocket is not poisonous. Tansy mustard grows to 6 inches to 2 feet, with deeply divided "frilly or lacy" leaves, often with a gray-green color. This is the best way to tell it apart from London rocket, which has a much larger, lobed (vs. lacy), deep green (vs. gray-green) leaf, and often grows from 6 inches to 3 or 4 feet in height. London rocket mustard is growing all across West Texas this spring.

Tommy Yeater is the Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture, for Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard County Courthouse. He can be reached at 264-2236.

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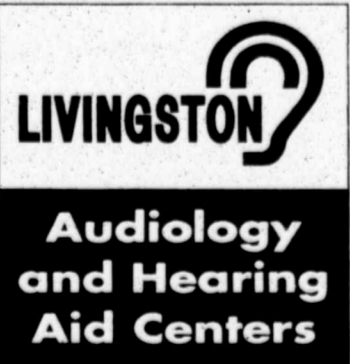
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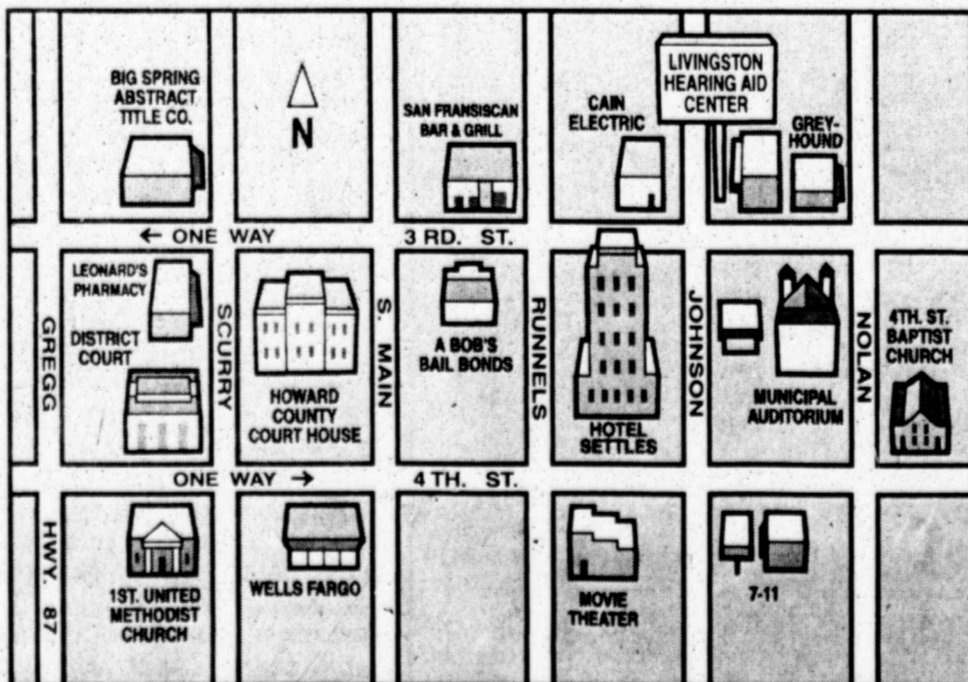


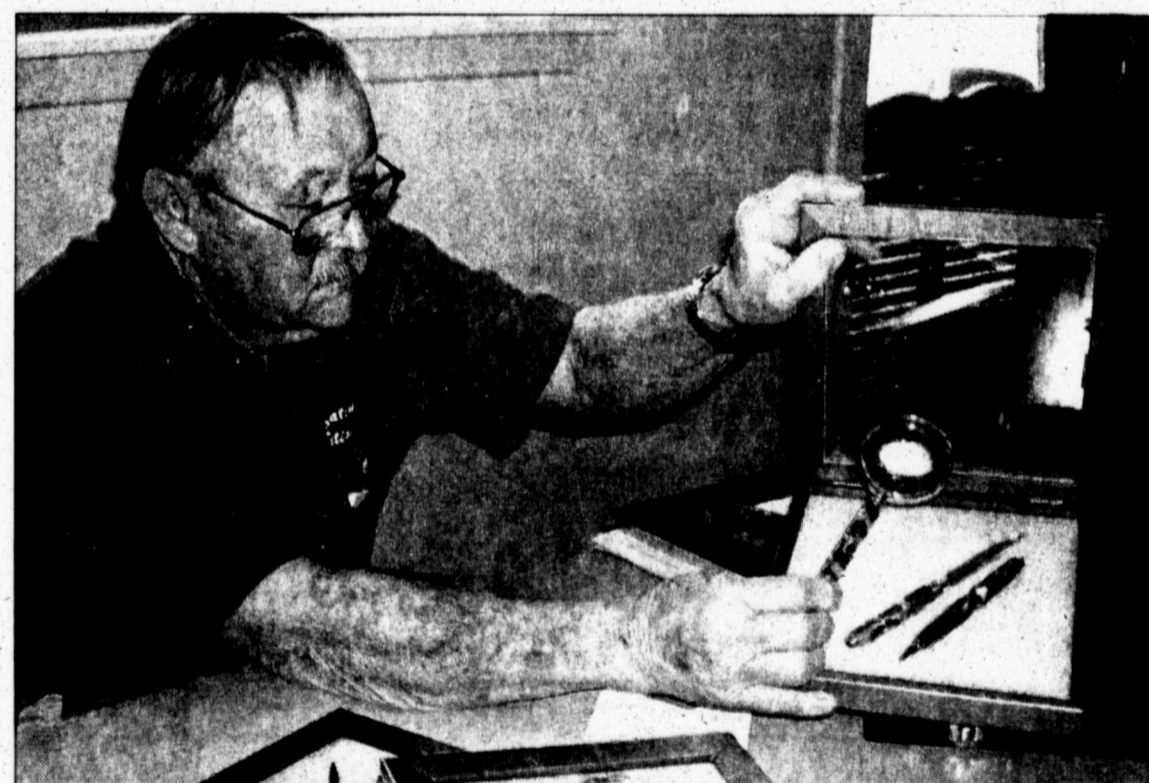
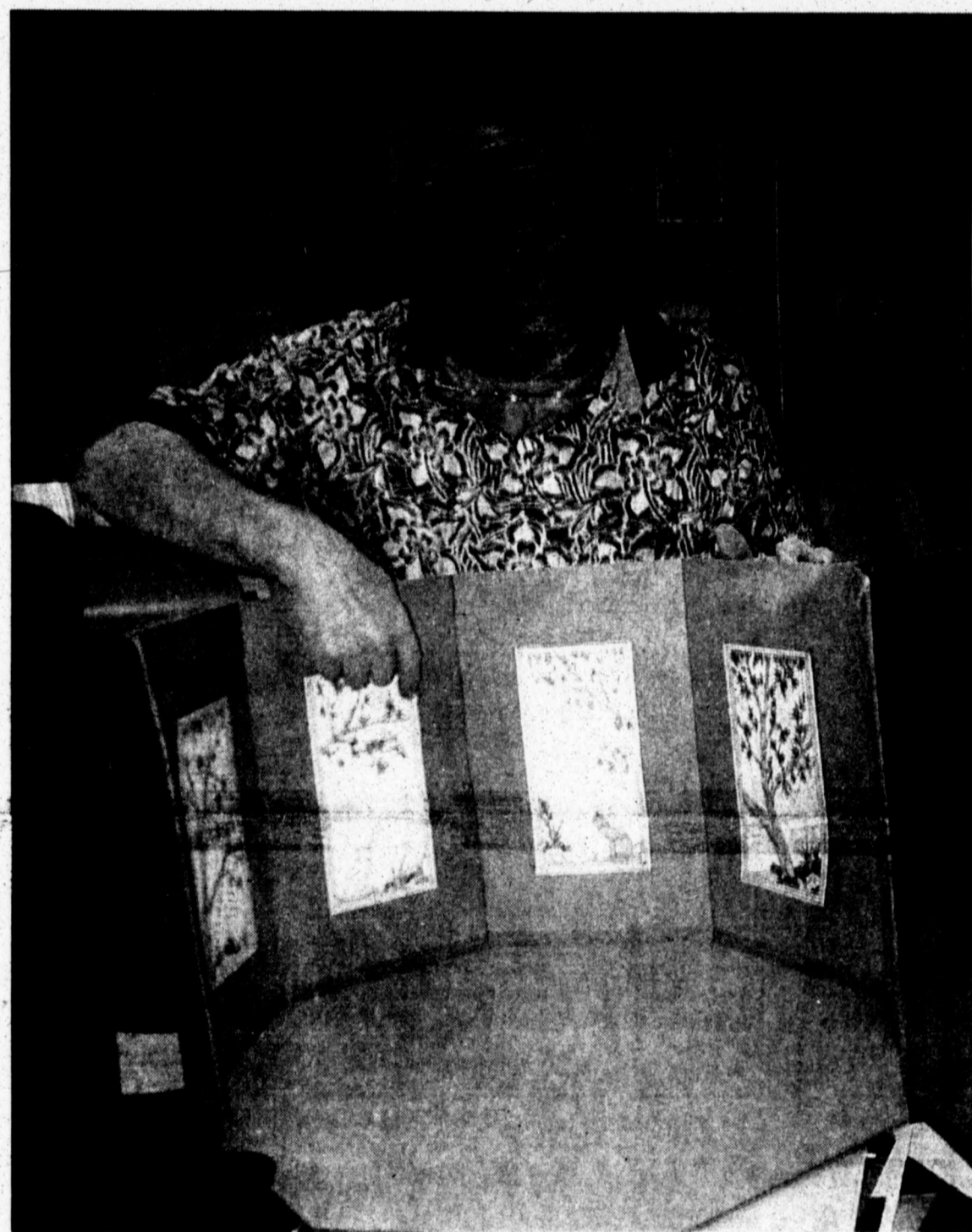
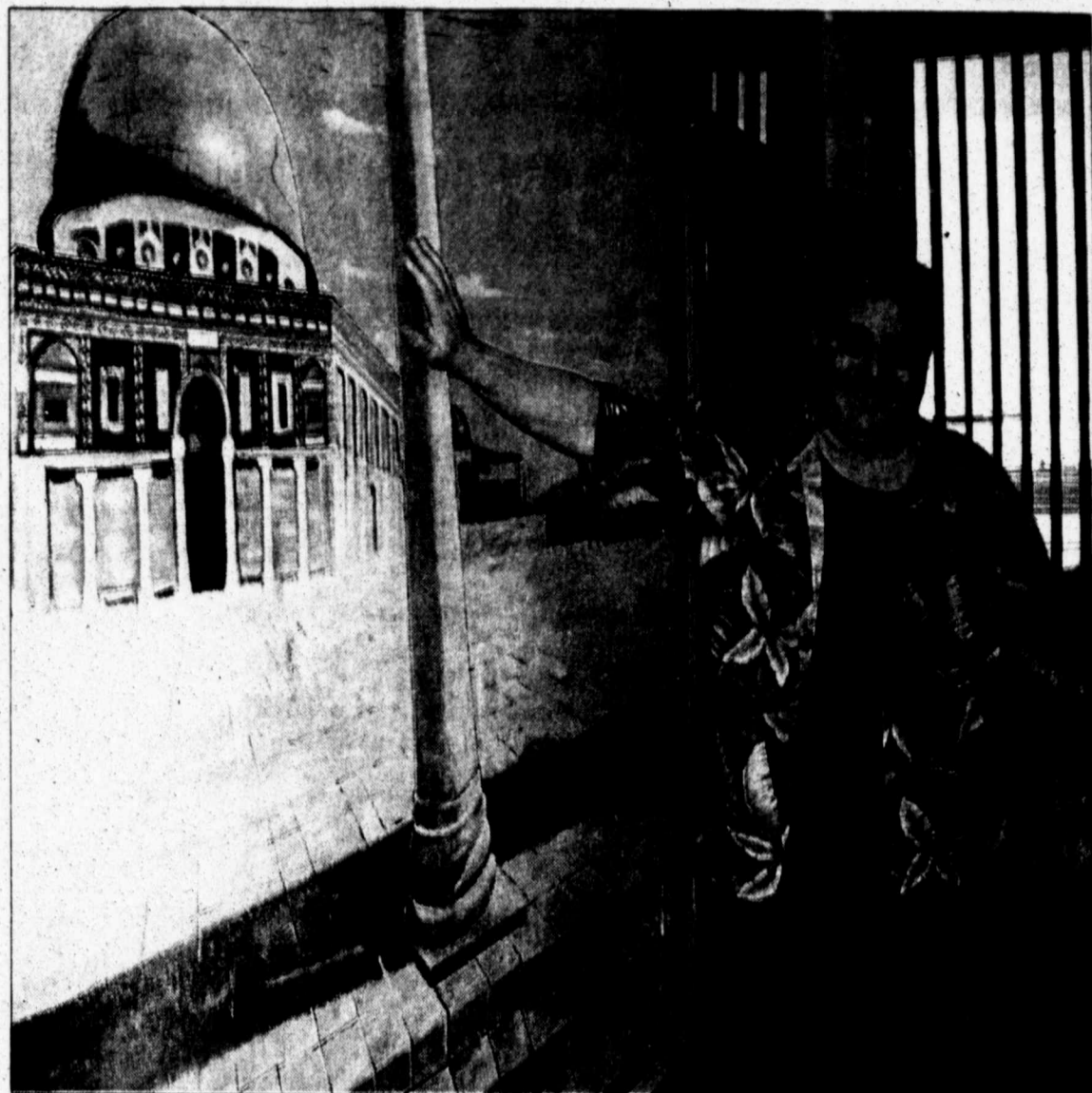
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GOOD NEIGHBORS

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SECTION D

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald
Sunday, March 27, 2005

Enjoying a profession, by design

It's been said that it's a lucky man who can take something he finds enjoyable and make it his profession.

If that's true, then Bill Brooks, owner of The Design Place, is truly a lucky man.

He certainly considers himself to be one.

While not a native of Big Spring, Brooks considers himself almost one. "I grew up in Ira and my wife, Theda, is from Snyder. So you could say we're from right around here, anyway," Brooks said.

He first came to Big Spring in

1964, teaching drafting at Big Spring High School. It was a job he kept for 11 years, one that eventually led him to his current position.

"While I was teaching, I'd do some drafting work during the summers for an architect here, Olen Puckett," Brooks explained. "He was working on the plans for the Post Office here then. Not only did it help supplement my teaching income, but I enjoyed the job."

"I finally wound up quitting the teaching profession and went to work for another architectural firm drawing plans for

homes and commercial buildings," he added. "I worked for them for about 2-1/2 years. Then I figured what I did for them I could do on my own and have a lot more fun."

It was not a thought that was easy to follow through on, however.

"That was the scariest thing I've ever done in my life," he admitted. "I was told by several people that I was making a mistake ... that there wouldn't be enough people needing a design business."

"The secret, though, was diversity. It still is," Brooks added. "Initially, I was going to do painted signs and draw plans for houses and commercial buildings."

But Brooks found himself diversifying quickly after he opened the business in 1976.

"I figured out I couldn't paint enough signs to make a go of it, so I also started doing some woodwork. I had an industrial arts degree, so anytime I had a chance to work along those lines I tried to do that."

As a result, Brooks would later branch out into woodcarving and then about 25 years ago, added making stained glass projects to the list of services he can provide for clients.

His stained glass windows and doors are in high demand these days, but Brooks says he got into the art in a somewhat roundabout way.

"I'd always liked working with wood and metal, but really wasn't interested in working with glass," he admitted. "In fact, a customer came to me with a piece of stained glass, that he'd had done in Dallas. He wasn't really happy with it and he said he wished somebody in Big Spring would do it. I said I didn't think I was interested."

"But the very next week, there was a story in the paper announcing that Howard College was offering a short class in stained glass. I decided I'd take it. That class was really just about the basics, but I decided it was going to be fun."

Brooks said he wound up doing a lot of studying and reading with every project and his skill grew accordingly.

"I started out just doing a few small things, but over time



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley

Bill Brooks, owner of The Design Place, displays the copper panel that will fit in the door of a pie safe currently under construction in his workshop.



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley

Bill Brooks explains a stained glass project that involved creating four windows with a mural effect for the new home former Big Spring residents Butch and Kay Fraser built in Stephenville. Brooks is the owner of The Design Place.

they've gotten bigger and more complex," he said. "I've had people ask me if I would teach a class or do demonstrations, but that's not really something I'm interested in doing."

But some of his more recent stained glass projects have drawn a great deal of interest from others — particularly the 17 windows he created for a Presbyterian church in Andrews and a four-window project which projects a mural effect for the home of Butch and Kay Fraser in Stephenville.

"Sherry Newton came over and saw the windows for the Frasers' new home and was just blown away," Brooks said. "She started talking to people about them and all of a sudden I had a lot of people coming by to see them."

At the moment, Brooks' largest projects in progress are

furniture items for local attorney Glenna Mouton.

The list of projects Brooks has been commissioned to do are myriad. Customer furniture for the home of Stan and Sue Partee, dozens of wood sculptures, stained glass projects, signs and the like.

He's even done several interesting projects for himself — a one-third scale wooden canoe displayed in his office, the carved stickhorses he's given his four grandsons... The list seems almost endless.

"There's just no telling what I'll be working on next," Brooks admitted. "But whatever it is, it'll be something that I like to do. That's the really great thing about doing this, it's always fun."

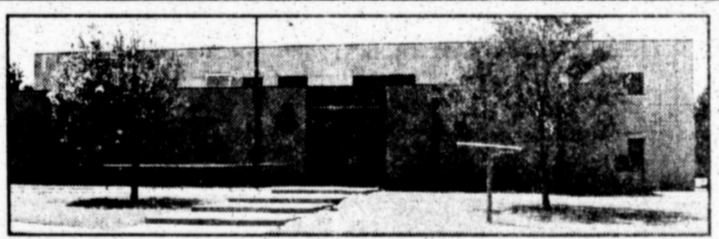
—John A. Moseley, managing editor

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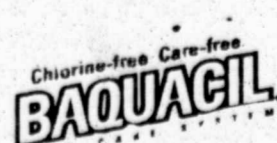
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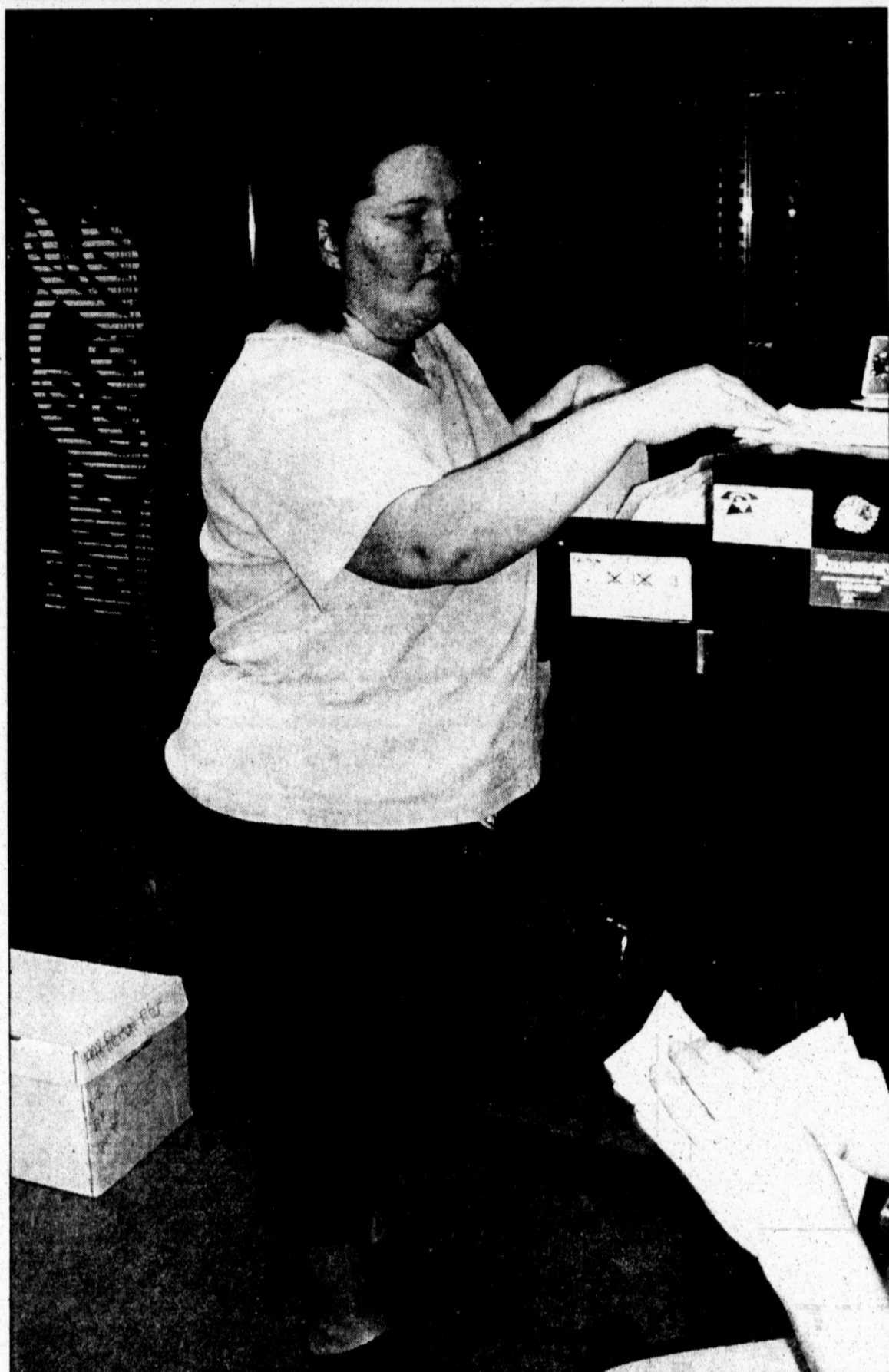
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Bessie Flores, a volunteer at the Big Spring Salvation Army, performs filing duties at the center on West Fifth Street. Flores has been volunteering several days a week since being laid off from Star Tek late last year.

Volunteering her time to help other people

For many people, losing their job would be a disaster.

For Bessie Flores, it was an opportunity.

Make no mistake — Flores was quite happy at her job at Star Tek, especially because of the extra income it provided for a household that included her husband, two children, a grandchild, her mother and brother.

But instead of being devastated when she was laid off from the firm in November 2004, Flores saw the chance to get back to doing something she truly enjoys — helping out at the local Salvation Army.

In a way, she saw it as a chance to get back to her roots.

"I used to come here as a child with my grandmother and my aunt," she said, looking around the spacious chapel at the Salvation Army center on West Fifth Street. "I was a member of the church — I was one of their soldiers. I got away from it after I got married ... but I've been back for about six years now."

It's not as if Flores doesn't miss her paycheck, but it's obvious that she's more than content to spend her afternoons at the Salvation Army.

She performs a variety of tasks at the center — filing, cleaning, serving food; basically, anything that needs to be done, she said. "My husband and I

even helped wax the new floor in here.

"I volunteer three or four times a week ... sometimes five. It depends on how busy they are," Flores said.

She even is a member of the agency's emergency

response team, which provides meals and drinks for relief teams out in the field.

As for motivation, that's easy: She loves helping people, both those who work for the Salvation Army and those who receive its services.

"I just love to help; make things easier for the officers," she said. "Plus, I love helping people."

Assisting others is a theme that Flores keeps coming back to.

"To me, the satisfaction is in helping others," she said. "I've always liked helping. This just gives me an outlet to do all that."

Another theme that Flores keeps going back

to is that of family. The past year saw as many as seven people living under her roof at home, and it is that sense of family which also draws her to help at the Salvation Army.

"To me, the satisfaction is in helping others. I've always liked helping. This just gives me an outlet to do all that."

—Steve Reagan, staff writer

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

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Overcoming the odds

Jordan native Mike Abusaab has worked hard to make his dreams become reality

Mike Abusaab is a man who dreams big and bold and who set out determined to see those dreams fulfilled.

"One of my highlights has been eating dinner in a room with the President of the United States, the most powerful man in the world. When I did that, I knew I had finally made it," said Abusaab, who owns Sonic Drive-In in Big Spring. He attended a White House dinner in May 2003.

And while Abusaab measures success today — he has acquired several different business interests, a string of Sonic Drive-In restaurants and he funds many community programs — his life has not always been easy.

Born Nov. 4, 1955, in Jordan, Abusaab was one of 10 children of Khadja and Abraham Abusaab. The family lived as refugees in Jordan and Abusaab remembers the constant moving from place to place when he was a child and the loss of family homes and possessions.

"It was a war situation and we lost everything we had at one time. I remember once we had to walk a day and a night to reach our refugee camp. I was 12, my little brother was 2 and he was my responsibility. I carried him on my back through that walk," he said.

He recalls in 1967, he and his family lived in refugee camp tents during the Six Day War. His father died about that time, and Abusaab said his older brother by six years became the head of the family.

"In our culture, the older person becomes the head of the family and my brother sacrificed for us. He quit school and went to work so that I could finish school. I was the first one in the family to graduate from high school," he said.

"And I was the first to come to the United States," he said.

He continues to respect and admire his oldest brother, who now operates a banana plantation just 10 miles from the Dead Sea, he said.

"I do not have to go outside my family to find a hero because my brother and my mom are my heroes. I always want to be just like my oldest brother. He became like my dad and even today I say 'yes sir' and 'no sir' and whatever he says goes," he said.

Abusaab said as a child he dreamed of coming to the United States. He believed that in this country, he could be anything he wanted to be and become anything he chose to become.

"When I was a little boy, I told my mother I wanted to be king because I thought that a king had a very good job. She sat me down and said I could not be king. I asked her why and she said I was not a member of the royal family. I asked her if I could go to school to study to become king and she said no. I was devastated," he said.

His sense of humor has

seen Abusaab through many struggles, but his determination has been a hallmark of his life as well.

He applied to travel to the United States three times before he was

Continued from Page 5D



Mike Abusaab, owner of Sonic Drive-Ins in Big Spring, talks with a customer at his desk in his office on Gregg Street. Abusaab, a U.S. citizen since 1987, hails from a large family in Jordan.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

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Dr. 160

"I had never heard of Big Spring and thought the name said it was a big place with a lot of water. Without thinking I said I'll take it. When I first arrived in town, I saw Sonic Tire Store and thought that was an odd Sonic Restaurant."

Continued from Page 4D

accepted. Once he received permission to study in the United States, he worked for six months to raise the \$495 necessary to purchase his one-way ticket.

"I had a dream to come to the United States, because I believed here I could become what I wanted to be, that my life was not dependent on who I was related to. I was persistent and was accepted," he said.

Abusaab first arrived in New York City in 1976, just as the country was celebrating its 200-year anniversary. The fireworks and festivities made a huge impression on the 21-year-old man, who had just departed from a small town in Jordan.

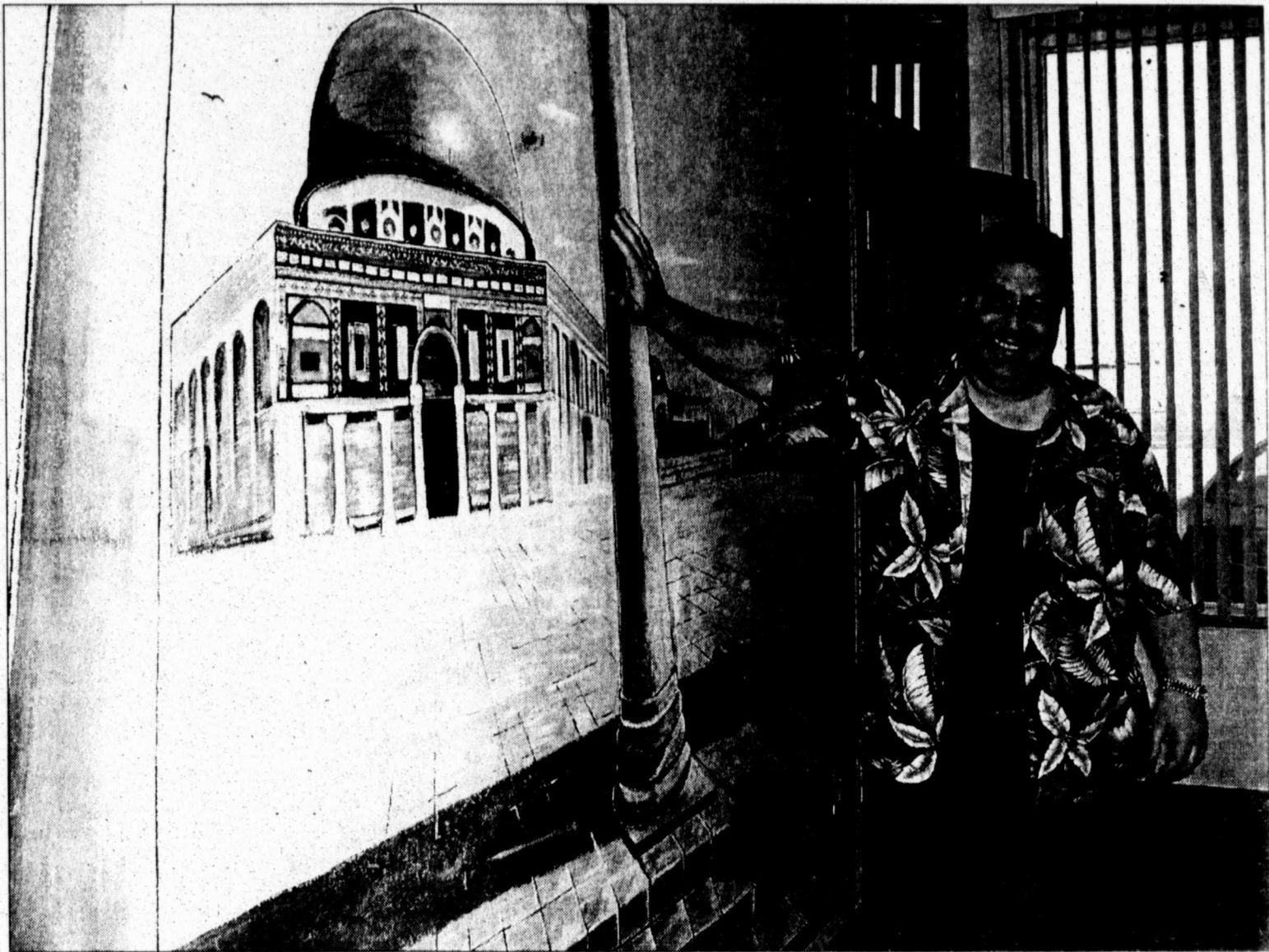
"It would be like going from Ackerly to New York City," he said.

Abusaab won a scholarship to Southeast Oklahoma State University and enrolled in classes in the fall of 1976. He turned down scholarship offers at three other universities because they could not guarantee him employment.

His first semester was devoted to English classes.

"In Jordan, the teachers taught English but it was based on British pronunciation. At the university, they did not want us to be a burden to the teachers, so we had to take English classes and score 500 out of 700 to pass and enroll in regular college classes," he said.

His studies led him



Mike Abusaab, owner of Sonic Drive-Ins in Big Spring, shows a three-dimensional wall mural in his office, the work of his employee, Leon Talavera, that provides a floor-to-ceiling look at the Dome Rock in Jerusalem.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

through a bachelor of business administration degree and a master's business degree in administrative studies. He worked in the college's cafeteria and also worked part time for a local Sonic Drive-In while attending classes.

"I lived in the dorm on

the second floor and the cafeteria was on the first floor so I was very lucky — I didn't need a car," he said.

His job in the cafeteria introduced him to his wife, Sheila Fisher, who was a Spanish professor at the university. Abusaab said he became

interested in her because she was nice and cute and had a good personality.

"I worked up from dishwasher to cook to serving line supervisor to running the cash register. Although I am shy, I made the first move and gave her a dessert — I think it was a piece of

pecan pie — and told her it was from me. I was poor and nice and cute and we saw each other for four years," he said.

Their first date was to a Dairy Queen and she drove.

"Our wedding was in

Continued on Page 6D

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"I never thought I'd be staying in the U.S. and I never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be in the Sonic restaurant business. I have been a lucky person and my life has been lucky"

Continued from Page 5D

Enid, Okla., in 1982, with just her sister and her sister's husband in her sister's house. We drove back to Durant that night and returned to work the next day," he said.

Abusaab said his career with Sonic restaurants, which spans 20 years this month, started because of his former employer in Durant, Okla.

"I was having trouble finding a job after graduation and one day I was at

Sonic and my boss said he would like me to come to work for him. I told him a person with master's degree didn't work for Sonic and he said obviously I had learned nothing in college. I will never forget that conversation," he said.

His former employer allowed him to see his income tax return which showed a six-figure income, phenomenal wages for 1985. "I asked him, 'How do I get in?'"

Abusaab said. He traveled to Norman, Okla., to meet with three owners of the Sonic restaurant chain. He remembers thinking they did not like him and he believed the three-hour drive had been a waste of time.

"There was a lot of hostility toward foreign students at that time. That was at the time of the hostage situation in Iran and there was a lot of abuse of foreign students," he said.

One week later he was called and offered the position in Big Spring.

"I had never heard of Big Spring and thought the name said it was a big place with a lot of water. Without thinking I said I'll take it. When I first arrived in town, I saw Sonic Tire Store and thought that was an odd Sonic Restaurant," he said.

He agreed to manage the store for six months and he lived in a motel alone during that time. His wife remained in Durant, Okla., finishing the college semester where she was teaching.

"After the six months I

felt like I was going to make it, although I didn't see a big change in the business during that time. My wife moved here and got a job teaching English in Coahoma. As soon as there was an opening at Big Spring High School for a Spanish teacher she went there because Spanish is her passion," he said.

During these 20 years, Abusaab has seen his restaurant business expand to a second location in Big Spring as well as other towns within West Texas, the farthest being in Del Rio. He also remodeled and expanded the Gregg Street location.

He said the Sonic restaurant owners at first refused to allow him to open a second location in Big Spring, believing the town could not support two stores.

"They are now both running about the same and they think I am a genius," he said, laughing.

Along with the Sonic restaurants, Abusaab has international interests with his family in Jordan as well as a supermarket in New York City with his younger brother.

He is involved in real estate in Howard County and looks toward providing housing development off Wasson Road in the near future.

This \$1 million project will offer building contractors and developers a private and attractive location for a homes with several private courts and cul-de-sacs.

He also provides scholarships to area high schools and colleges and offers several not-for-profit organizations a chance to have fund-raisers at his restaurants. He is a member of Moore Development for Big Spring sub-committees, a member of the Rotary Club and on the board of the YMCA.

Although he and his wife do not have children of their own, each visit to see his family in Jordan brings dozens of nieces and nephews to greet them at the airport.

"They have always changed from the last time we saw them, but they call me uncle so I know they are my nieces and nephews. We counted once and believe we have more than 100 family

members in that part of Jordan," he said.

He enjoys his travels home and has seen Bethlehem and the Dead Sea, where Jesus was baptized, as well as the city of Jericho.

"I have walked where the prophet walked," he said.

His offices on Gregg Street show his love of his native country's history, with floor-to-ceiling murals of various locations painted by his employee, Leon Talavera. The one in his office is of the Dome Rock in Jerusalem.

But perhaps his proudest moment was when he became a United States citizen. Abusaab has dual citizenship between Jordan and the U.S., and the only disappointment he found was that he can't be president, either.

"I never thought I'd be staying in the U.S. and I never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be in the Sonic restaurant business. I have been a lucky person and my life has been lucky," he said.

— Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

A Neighborhood Favorite For Almost 25 Years

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Chili CB.....\$3.20	TX Chili CB.....\$3.95	TX Chili HB.....\$3.75
Char HB.....\$2.95	Char CB.....\$3.25	TX Char HB.....\$3.75
TX Char CB.....\$3.90	TX HB.....\$3.60	TX CB.....\$3.80
SANDWICHES		
Steak.....\$3.40	BLT.....\$2.95	
Chicken.....\$3.70	Ham.....\$2.95	
BBQ.....\$3.45	Grilled Cheese.....\$3.05	
Fish.....\$3.35	Supreme.....\$3.05	
Ham & Cheese.....\$3.50	Philly.....\$3.90	
Grill Cheese.....\$2.20		
EXTRAS ON DINNERS		
Chicken Strip.....\$1.05		
Taco.....\$0.95		
Steak Finger.....\$0.95		
Banana Pepper.....\$0.20		
Jalapeno Pepper.....\$0.25		
Stuffed Jal. Pepper.....\$0.70		
SIDE ORDERS		
Onion Rings.....\$2.75	Sm Nachos.....\$1.95	
Sm Fries.....\$1.95	Lg Nachos.....\$2.15	
Lg Fries.....\$2.15	Stuffed Jalapeno.....\$3.15	
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Lost art: Saving the Osage language



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Linguist Dr. Carolyn Quintero — who grew up in Osage County, Okla. — sits in front of her computer and progresses toward finishing up the making of her Osage Dictionary. She has already published a book called Osage Grammar.

Don't call her the messiah, but Dr. Carolyn Quintero is lending any helping hands she can find in attempting to bring back the Osage language — a language which, frankly, is dead among speakers in the world.

"I am not trying to save the language because I don't even know that it is something that can be saved," said Quintero, who has published one book on Osage grammar and is currently working on another. "The Osage tribe is intent on bringing it back, but it will be quite a task."

While resurfacing the Osage language is not totally Quintero's goal, she does want to give any-

one interested in the language a chance to learn more about it and maybe be able to speak it.

"Nobody alive today could carry on a conversation in Osage," said Quintero. "I just want to be able, through research, to leave a record of the language for anyone who wants to know about it. I am not trying to resurrect it, but the tribe still thinks it's possible."

Quintero became interested in the Osage language after growing up in Osage County, Okla., where she lived for 17 years.

Quintero completed her undergraduate at the University of Oklahoma in Norman before leaving for Venezuela for 15 years where she began attack-

ing her master's in linguistic studies.

After completing her master's, Quintero returned to the states and received another master's and her PH.D from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

She has been living in Big Spring for almost four years.

"Big Spring is kind of an oasis for me," said Quintero, who taught herself the Osage language through research of others. "I just sit on my computer and work on trying to get these two volumes of information out."

Quintero technically has two volumes already out and is working on a third one at the present time. She published a teaching book titled "First Course of Osage," which is the beginning level of learning Osage. Her most recent published work is titled "Osage Grammar" — a far more complex version of the Osage language.

"It is a more advanced book that describes the language of Osage," said Quintero.

The book took four years to get published and even longer to put together. She spent lots of time in Osage County, recording the voices of old speakers, writing things down and gathering up sentences and words. Then, she went back to the original speakers and tested her hypotheses until she got it right.

"I came up with 1,000 pages, but the book was only 400 pages long after it was published," said

Quintero.

Prior to Quintero's research, the Osage language was just done orally and had no specific writing system or orthography.

"That's hampered their learning because there was no way of knowing what certain sounds are," said Quintero.

That is one reason why Quintero has decided to go through with her current project — the Osage Dictionary. The book is going to list 4,000-5,000 Osage words and the words will be defined in English and then put into sentences in Osage, according to Quintero.

"It turns Osage words into a readable word," she said. "People won't know what most of the words mean, so I want to help them learn."

Quintero — who is considered a linguist — speaks many different languages fairly well. She is exceptional in Spanish and English and can "get by" in French and Italian. She also understands Portuguese and knows a little German. And she really can't speak in Osage. No one today can, really, said Quintero.

"There are two people alive in the world today which used Osage on a day-to-day basis in their youth," she said. "The last time Osage was really used was in the 1950s and 1960s. It was a gradual decline though. They just didn't stop one day and switch to English."

"It is a big responsibility to be the repository of this language. I just can't turn my back on this

walk away now."

Quintero hopes to be finished with the dictionary in four to six weeks, but the software could delay the timing a bit. And although some other things are still needed to be done with the language, Quintero says a break is in order.

"There are still things to be done, but I will stay away from major projects for awhile and I also want to do some traveling," she said.

Quintero also wants to

dedicate some time to her company — Inter Lingua. The company was opened in 1984 and it deals with translating into or from languages for businesses around the United States and Web pages, said Quintero.

"We translate all kinds of things," she said. To cap things off, she is also working on a Spanish version of the seamless Bible.

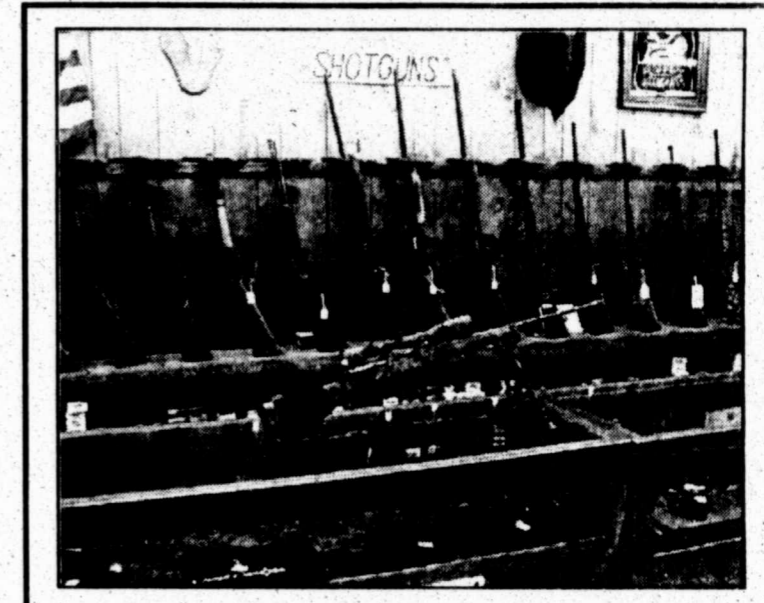
—Troy Hyde
sports editor

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Wilson Money: Man of diverse talents



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Wood craftsman Wilson Money arranges some of his pens, letter openers and magnifying glass set displays. All hand-made items, the sets range in price up to \$250. He is also a massage therapist, owner of the Relaxation Station, where he provides deep tissue and trigger point massage, as well as hot stone massage therapy, reflexology, myofascial release and salt scrubs. Money is involved in pet therapy with local nursing homes using his pet wolves.

As soft-spoken Wilson Money may possess a true gentleman's talent—powerful hands. The owner of the Relaxation Station, Money is a licensed massage therapist, a profession he thoroughly enjoys. He became a massage therapist in response to certain family obligations. "As a kid I would rub feet and shoulders and necks," he said. And his hands seem to have a life of their own, as he kneads and works

out kinks in backs, feet, hands and shoulders. But his greatest challenge as a masseuse was with his son. "In 1961, I had twins born who needed braces. My boy, who only weighed 18 pounds when he was 3 years old, had to go to the chiropractor and needed daily massages. "I was the only one he would let perform that massage, so I would go to the chiropractor, who would tell me what to do and I would do it. I paid for the chiropractic visits by doing those massages,"

he said. Money was born Nov. 16, 1930, in Fisher County to Troy and Grace Money. He was the eldest of seven children and the family farmed for the first 10 years of his life. "My granddad had 1,000 acres and we farmed cotton and grain," he said. His family moved from Fisher County to Odessa in 1940 and his father went to work for an oil company. After he graduated from Grand Falls High School in 1948, he followed his father into the oil field, working as a

pumper and roustabout for the next 15 years. "Right out of high school I went to work for a pulling unit-contractor, roustabouting. In 1949, I went back to the farm, but left to go back to the oil field because that was easier," he said. "I was hurt because of my own foolishness in high school. I had been dared by some classmates and was running and hit my knee on the bleachers. That knocked me out cold as a wedge and when I came to they told me I had hurt my knee," he said. Poor eyesight also assisted in his 4-F classification, although had it been war time, he said he would have been drafted in spite of the problems. Money's first marriage provided him three children, twin boy and girl and an older daughter who died in 1979. He married Jean Willis Eiben May 30, 1970, in a Lutheran Church in Odessa. Between them they have nine children, 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. They live in different parts of Texas and New Mexico. "Now we can't get them all together at the same time, but we were all very close until they scattered," he said. Jean has a family reunion each year, he said. Wilson's family is scattered as well, and one

nephew is serving as a missionary to Uganda, Africa. Money retired from Fina Oil Co. in 1992 and worked as a cook for deer hunting camps for two years before completing his massage therapy education in 2001. "My mom was sick when I was little and I learned to cook," he said. Today his Relaxation Station is located across the street from his home on North Wasson Road, just north of the I-20 Service Road headed toward Andrews. He recently made the move

to a house where he established his massage therapy rooms and office. "I like it here because it's convenient to walk across the street to go to work and if I am not keeping appointments at the Relaxation Station, I can be at home doing chores," he said. He offers a variety of massages, including deep tissue and trigger point massage, as well as hot stone massage therapy, reflexology, myofascial release and salt scrubs. He offers massages in a

Continued on Page 9D

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Continued from Page 8D

variety of timed appointments as well, from a half hour to an hour, a one and half hour hot stone massage or even \$1 a minute massage with a 10 minute minimum.

"But I really feel like I can't do what I like to do in 10 minutes," he said.

He also offers \$100 gift certificates that may be taken in any timed appointments a client may select.

Along with providing stress and sore and aching muscle relief, Money contributes in other ways to his community through pet therapy. He has three pet wolves and 9-year-old Shawnee, 98.5 percent wolf and 1.5 percent Siberian husky, he takes to local nursing homes.

"I became interested in wolves when I had a half-shepherd, half-coyote mix in Sand Hills. That was the best watchdog I ever had and I never had to worry about the kids or anyone bothering them," he said.

He also has two other wolf mixes, 2-year-old Smoky, which is 50 percent husky and 50 percent

wolf, and Apache, 7-8 years old, which is 15 percent husky and 85 percent wolf.

"Wolves need very little training and I have taken them into schools," he said.

Wilson also supplements his retirement income through his handcrafted, wooden items, including pen and pencil sets, picture frames, belt buckles, coffee table legs, lamps, clocks, chess boards, pocket-knives and southwest art scenes.

His choice of wood varies from exotic crushed sunflower seed hulls to elk and ebony and pink ivory (also a wood) from Africa.

He also produces items from mesquite, elm, oak, cypress, juniper, huisache and acrylic material such as imitation mother of pearl.

"The hardest pen and pencil set I've ever made was from stone I got from the stone quarries south of here," he said, indicating the Edwards limestone quarries in Glasscock County.

The pens and pencils set prices range from \$25 up to \$250, and he orders much of the material

from catalogs. His work has been displayed at the Howard County Fair, as well as in commercial booths at the arts and crafts shows in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

He became interested in woodworking while in high school, he said.

He also handcrafted sets from deer antler as well as making gun stocks and handles. He also produces custom-ordered items.

"Most of my sales are

due to word of mouth of people who are happy with their items. I make different style pens, too, from rolling balls to pencils with their own sharpeners," he said.

His inventory includes dozens of pens and pencils in all styles of wood and he knows each wood type for all the items.

Jean is an artist and quilts, and Money often provides simple picture frames for her work.

"I made a rocking chair

for my granddaughter 23 years ago and it is still in good shape," he said.

Money and his wife are also actively involved with St. Mary's Episcopal Church, where they are members. He said they have committed to assisting with the church's Easter activities and he also provides material for projects for the children.

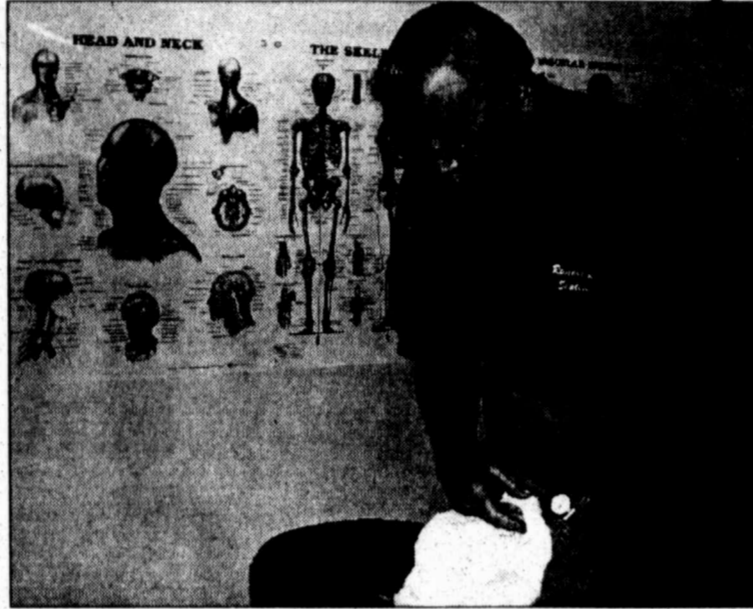
"I provide cutouts when they make bird houses. We do a lot of work with

the children," he said.

He enjoys visiting and talking with people almost as much as he enjoys his massage therapy, wood working and pet therapy.

His softly spoken 'ya ma'am' and 'no ma'am' indicate a respectful southern gentleman who has learned the power of his hands.

— Marsha Sturdivant
features editor



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Massage Therapist Wilson Money, owner of the Relaxation Station, provides deep tissue and trigger point massage, as well as hot stone massage therapy, reflexology, myofascial release and salt scrubs.

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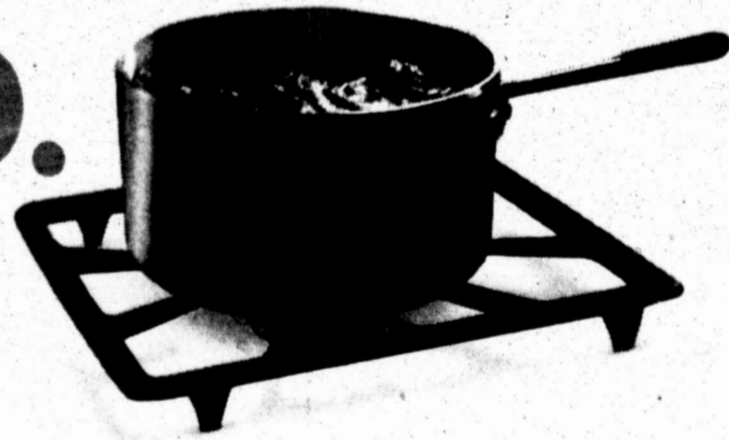
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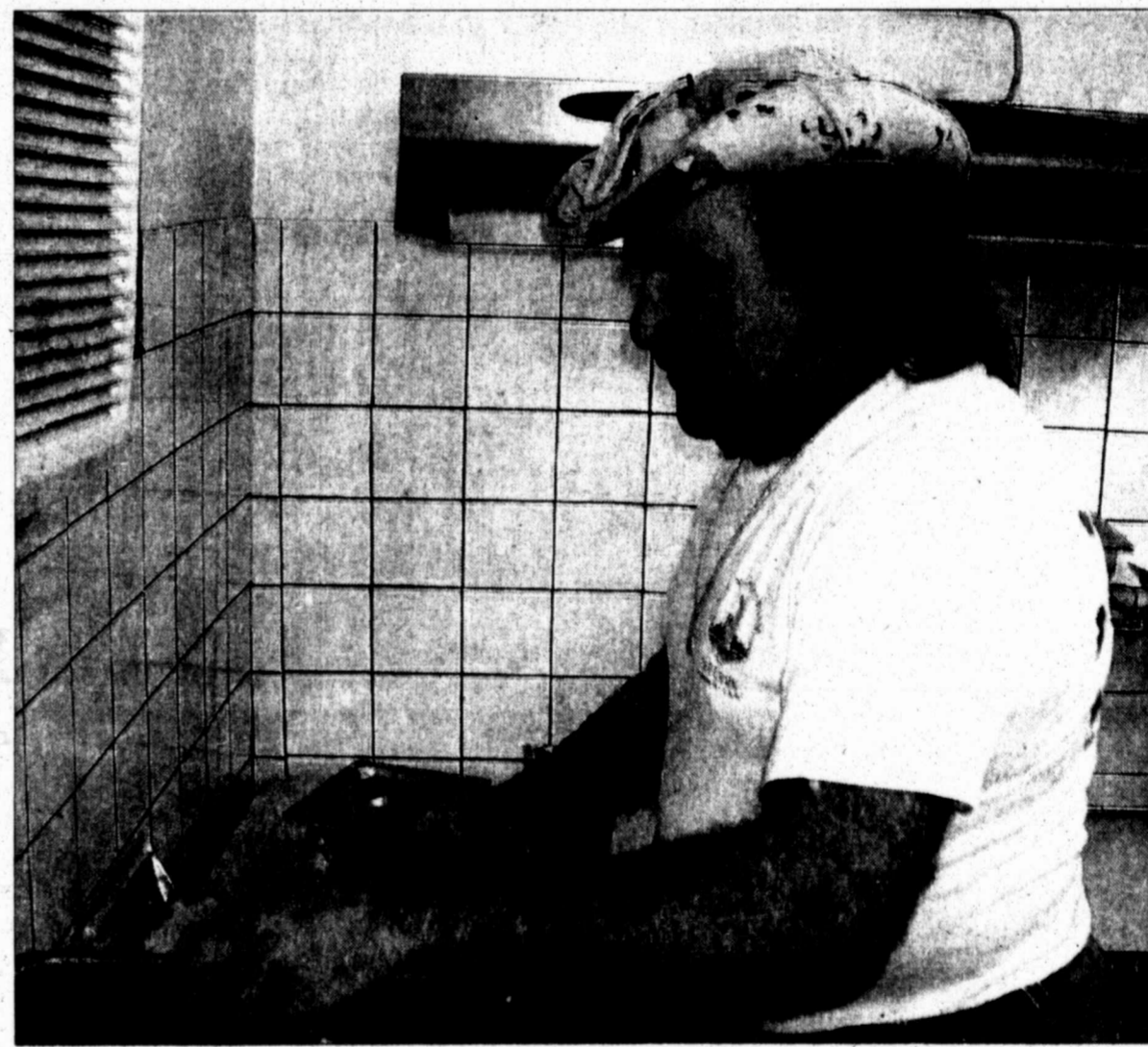
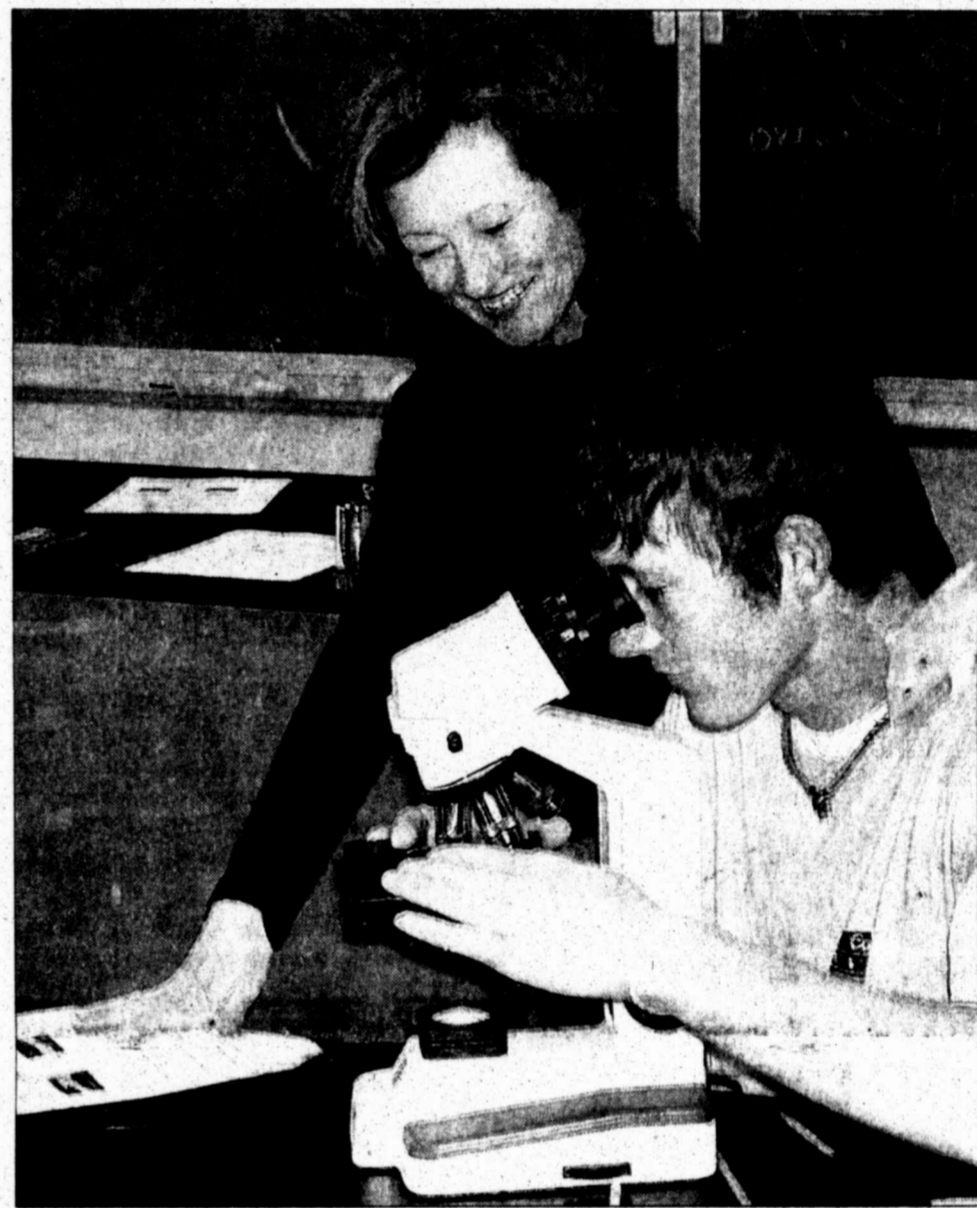
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SECTION E

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald
Sunday, March 27, 2005

Local chef has never met a stranger

An infectious giggle, an ever-widening smile and a down-home ease mean local chef, mom and Howard College employee Marsha McNew never meets a stranger.

"I just really like people. I guess others know there's not much pretense to me," McNew said.

And while she makes friends everywhere she goes, underneath her bubbly personality is a courageous woman who has faced hardships and tragedy and made the most of her experiences.

"I am very strong, mentally and I know when you have grief you have to deal with it and not hold back or you'll likely blow up.

"Life goes on and we have to go on," said McNew, whose brother died at Christmas of 2003.

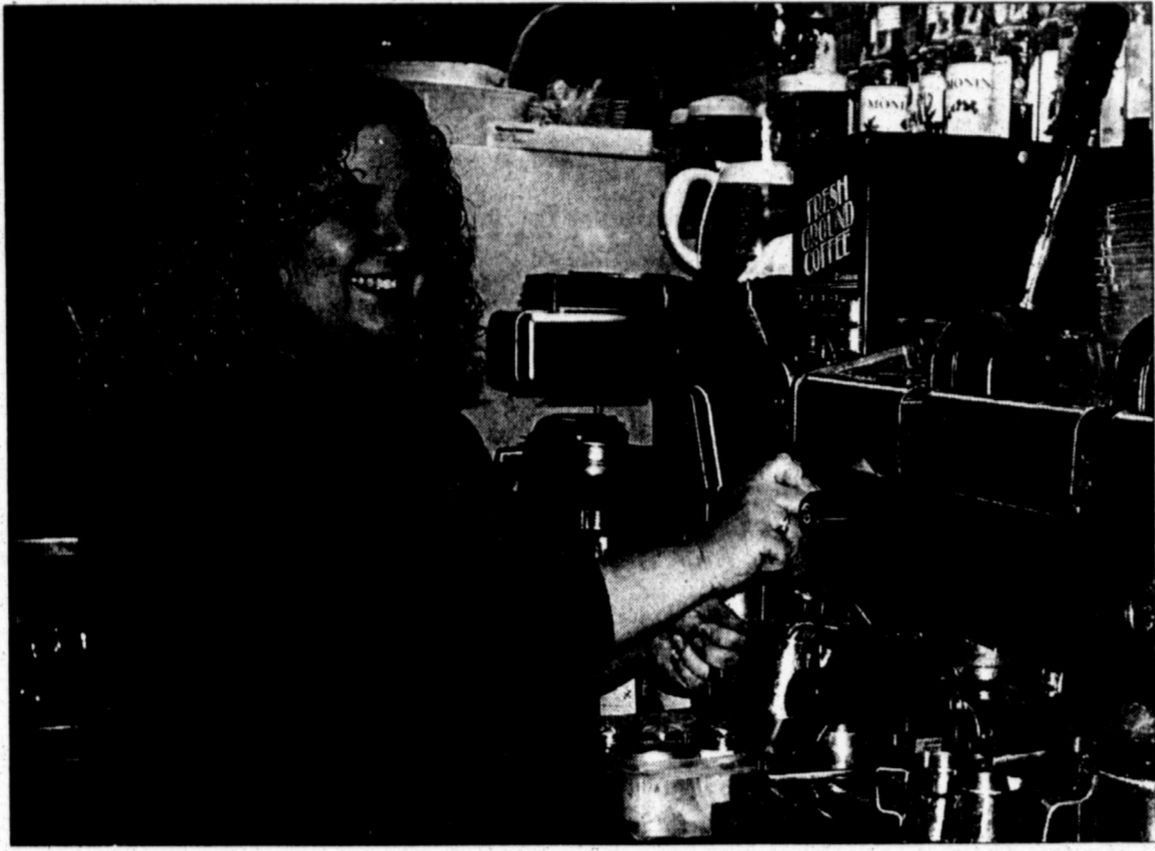
"B.J., we called him Willie, suffered from bipolar manic depression. He was just 36 years old and his illness affected his life so much. He had struggled with his bipolar for years. He wanted someone to love, he wanted kids and he was depressed.

"The holidays can make depression even worse. No one wants to be alone and everyone wants someone to love. Suicide and depression affect a lot of people at the holidays," she said.

McNew uses that experience to aid her in many of the endeavors she undertakes. As interim women's dormitory supervisor for Howard College, McNew works daily with young adults.

"I guess you could call dorm living independent living for adolescents. They're young adults just out of high school and out of their parent's home. I help them transition into adulthood, hopefully with few adolescent fiascoes," she said.

She views her role with the women living in the college dorm as that of friend with strong parental guidelines. She said the work is not babysitting at all, more like



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant
Howard College Hawk's Nest manager and interim women's dormitory supervisor Marsha McNew prepares cappuccino for a customer at the restaurant/snack bar.

being a big sister, setting good examples and providing a listening ear.

"It is amazing to me how many problems these young girls can have. I hope to learn how to manage these types of problems now so that I'll have a heads up when my own kids are teen-agers," she said.

McNew said she counsels the dormitory students as well as her own children — two sons, Steven Boren, 14 and Sean Boren, 12, as well as stepdaughter Crystal McNew, 15, and stepson, Kelly McNew, 13, to live life to the fullest and not compromise youth for adult responsibilities.

"I look back and it's the things I didn't do that I regret and I tell them don't have any regrets," said McNew, 35.

One experience McNew recalls from her youth was when she worked as a nanny for a couple in New York City. Born in Fort Stockton in 1969, Marsha Bowers graduated from Fort Stockton High School in 1987.

That summer she answered a classified ad placed by grandparents in an Odessa newspaper that offered her a once-in-a-lifetime experience. She

was hired by the grandparents and lived in New York City for one and a half years.

"I was a typical New York City tourist and I had a blast. It was a wonderful experience and I traded that to become a wife and mother," she said.

She met her first husband and resigned from her nanny position just before the family went on vacation to the Virgin Islands. Missing that experience opened her eyes to life's possibilities and she counsels others now to not compromise their dreams and goals.

"I tell them don't give up for marriage and children. There is time to have a family after taking advantage of other experiences," she said.

That marriage ended in divorce and she has been married to Scott McNew since 1997. She participates in her children's school activities and attends sporting events.

"Family is the most important thing in my life now. Family is my No. 1. Everything else could disappear if it had to, but I am very family oriented and I choose those paths," she said.

McNew maintains a

close relationship with her mother, and one of the skills she learned from her provides one of her own passions today — cooking.

She began cooking at a young age and today has taken her hobby into a full-time vocation, as manager of the Hawk's Nest Café at Howard College. McNew also has her own catering business.

"I think I knew I wanted to do this as soon as I got my first catering contract. That's when I knew I wanted to be a caterer when I grow up," she said.

Her first catering job was a Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony in 2001. She's catered several community functions since then, including an after-prom party for Forsan High School, a 300-person barbecue dinner for ALON USA, baklava for Wynona Payte when she retired from Howard College, the first hang gliding event in Big Spring and a Red Dress Tea for Heritage Museum at Christmas where she prepared tea and scones.

In fact, theme parties are one of her favorite catering events. She prepared biscotti for one

party and also sells special cakes and pies for holidays or other special events.

"I love to cook. Cooking is a real stress reliever for me," she said.

Her children help with her catering business, loading and unloading trays and food. She said keeping them involved is an important aspect of their childhood.

"I believe in service work for the kids," she said.

She has an associate's degree in computer science from Howard College. McNew also coordinates the blood drives for Howard College and helps others with Christmas presents and holiday items, although she hesitates to name any specific family.

McNew and her mother, Alexia Bowers, are deeply entrenched in holiday cooking traditions, although for the past several years the men in the family have provided the fried turkey.

"That gets them out of the house and gives us an excuse to not have them underfoot," she said.

Other holiday traditions her family prepares include sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, homemade cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli and cheese casserole and bread stuffing.

But the most sought-after holiday dishes are the deserts, including homemade buttermilk pie, McNew's favorite that her mother prepares, pumpkin and pecan pies and cheesecake.

"None of us are supposed to have deserts, so

we go all out at the holidays," said McNew, who is diabetic.

One desert she made this year became a hit with her customers as well, a pumpkin cake.

"I was making pumpkin pie and had some left over so I made it into a cake. I sold more of those this year than anything else and people just raved about it, which made me feel good. Even people who don't like pumpkin pie liked the pumpkin cake," she said.

During Christmas 2004, McNew said an unusual event with lottery tickets surprised her family.

"The kids wanted to open one, present early and I said OK as long as I got to pick the present."

What she chose were scratch-off tickets.

"Crystal scratched hers and said 'I've won \$2, no, \$4,' then \$6 and finally \$20. We thought that was great," she said.

But her son Steven, who was not too interested in scratching a lottery ticket as a Christmas present, uncovered his winning prize of \$5,000.

"I had told them I get half of whatever they win over \$100 and I was really glad I did that. When Steven uncovered first \$1,000 and then \$5,000 he said 'I think I'm going to die.' He was disappointed he couldn't have his picture taken at the store when we went to claim the winnings.

"And I thought of my brother, B.J., and how excited he would have been at that win," she said.

— Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

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Helms and Walker: Calling the shots

They've been working the clock and books at HC games for almost 30 years now

Does anyone remember when Howard College played its basketball games somewhere besides the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum?

Dick Helms and Tommy Walker do. They worked in the small "cracker box" — now known as the Harold Davis Fitness Center — as the time operator and book keeper then and still hold down those paid positions today.

Both men have been working for Howard College in those positions for 28 years. Helms is in charge of the scoreboard and Walker keeps track of fouls, points, free throws and other basketball statistics for each team during basketball games.

"Actually, my responsibility just involves the clock if you want to get technical," said Helms.

Walker originally started working for the women's basketball team as the shot clock operator before beginning to do the stat book as a fill-in for a local radio station. Eventually, he just took over at the college as the bookkeeper on a full-time basis.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Dick Helms and Tommy Walker (from left in center) have been running the clock and keeping the book, respectively, during Howard College home basketball games for the last 28 years — every year since the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum opened and two years prior. The tandem is regarded by WJCAC officials as one of the best in the conference.

"Tommy is absolutely the best bookkeeper I have ever seen," said Helms. "He doesn't miss anything and is very professional."

Helms got the job because he was around the coaches a lot and because he had prior clock-running experience. He works for Athletic Supply and said he got the job because of his frequent contact with the coaches at the school. His prior experience running the clock came at Wayland Baptist.

The job can be both rewarding and tough to

handle at times, said Helms.

"You have to have a thick skull to do this job because sometimes the coaches and refs can get personal with you if they think you are messing something up," he said. "But it's also nice to see officials thank us for the job we do. It's a good compliment."

Helms and Walker have seen some great teams and some great talent play at Howard College. They had the pleasure to see such players as Spud Webb (Midland), Larry Johnson (Odessa), Mookie

Blalock (Midland) and Sheryl Swoopes (South Plains) inside the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Webb, Johnson and Blalock all played in the NBA and Swoopes currently plays in the WNBA and was one of the best players in the league when she was in her prime.

They also saw Nolan Richardson — former head coach and national championship winner at the University of Arkansas — coach at Western Texas College.

The duo also saw some good Hawk teams back in those days. Walker

believes Howard's 1984 and 1991 teams were the best he's ever seen there and thinks the women's best team was in 1993.

"Mike Mitchell coached the 1984 team and Steve Green's 1991 team went 32-2," he said. "The 1993 women's team went 35-1 and was coached by Royce Chadwick. Their only loss came in the first round game at nationals. They went on to win the consolation championship, though."

Even with all those good Howard teams and the NBA talent that has walked through the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, the arena has not been filled too many times.

"I have only seen it full one time and that was when the Harlem Globetrotters were in town," said Helms. "I never understood why more people don't come to the games. A lot of it I am sure is the fact that the kids aren't local, but I know the coaches want to have and try to bring in local recruits though."

This year's Howard men's team had lots of question marks coming into the season and both Walker and Helms are surprised at how well they did.

"With what they came into the season with, I thought they would be competitive, but they darn near won the conference this year," said Walker, who retired from working at the state hospital in 2001.

Helms gives a lot of credit to the coaching staff.

"They work well together and are really organized and that is a big reason for the turnaround," added Helms.

The Hawks finished 27-6 this year and finished second in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference with a record of 11-3. They advanced to the Region V Tournament this past month and came one game away from advancing to the National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

Walker — who just started making road trips with the men's team — made the trip to regionals in Lubbock, but Helms opted to stay home and spend time with his son, who is home on a temporary visit from the military as he returned from service in Iraq.

It is clear both men like their roles at the scorer's table and are going to keep doing their part as long as it remains fun and the college gives them the privilege.

"I have enjoyed the coaches through the years and you just can't find a better seat in the house than where we sit to watch the games," said Helms. "I will do it as long as it's fun and I can still do it well."

Walker — who said he began working with batting averages and tinkering with stats when he was a young child — said he will do it as long as he can.

"I always say I will quit when I finish last," he added.

— Troy Hyde, sports editor

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Taking pride in serving those who have served

Don't make the mistake of calling what Ben Mazzara does for a living a "job."

Mazzara, who is the administrator for the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, considers what he does to be of a more spiritual nature.

"I've been in this business for 14 years and I don't regret it for a moment," said Mazzara. "This isn't a job — it's a ministry. I look at it as a ministry, not just a job. The Texas State Veterans Home is managed by the Sears Methodist Retirement Systems out of Abilene, and that's a non-profit, charitable organization administering to seniors."

"It's so rewarding to serve those who have served their country. I hear so many war stories. Every resident here has a unique story, and I consider myself the smartest person in the world because I'm learning from these residents. These residents are giving me all of their life experiences. I think of each of them as my chief advisor."

Mazzara said he's pleased to be a part of the Big Spring community.

"I'm proud to call Big Spring home. I'm now a home owner in Big Spring, so I'm also a taxpayer here now," said Mazzara with a laugh.

Mazzara didn't plan to operate a nursing home.

"Nobody grows up wanting to be a nursing home administrator. Something happens in your life, and in my case, I was a 'late in life' child. So I didn't come around until my parents were in their 40s. So I had older parents, older grandparents, and I just grew fond of the geriatrics."

"I received my degree in health care administration from the University of Texas and went to the School of Allied Health. I

was visiting my grandparents every day in a nursing home, and the administrator there told me, 'I was so dedicated, I needed to get my license to become a nursing home administrator. The rest is history.'"

Mazzara isn't shy when it comes to bragging on his new home, calling Big Spring his own paradise.

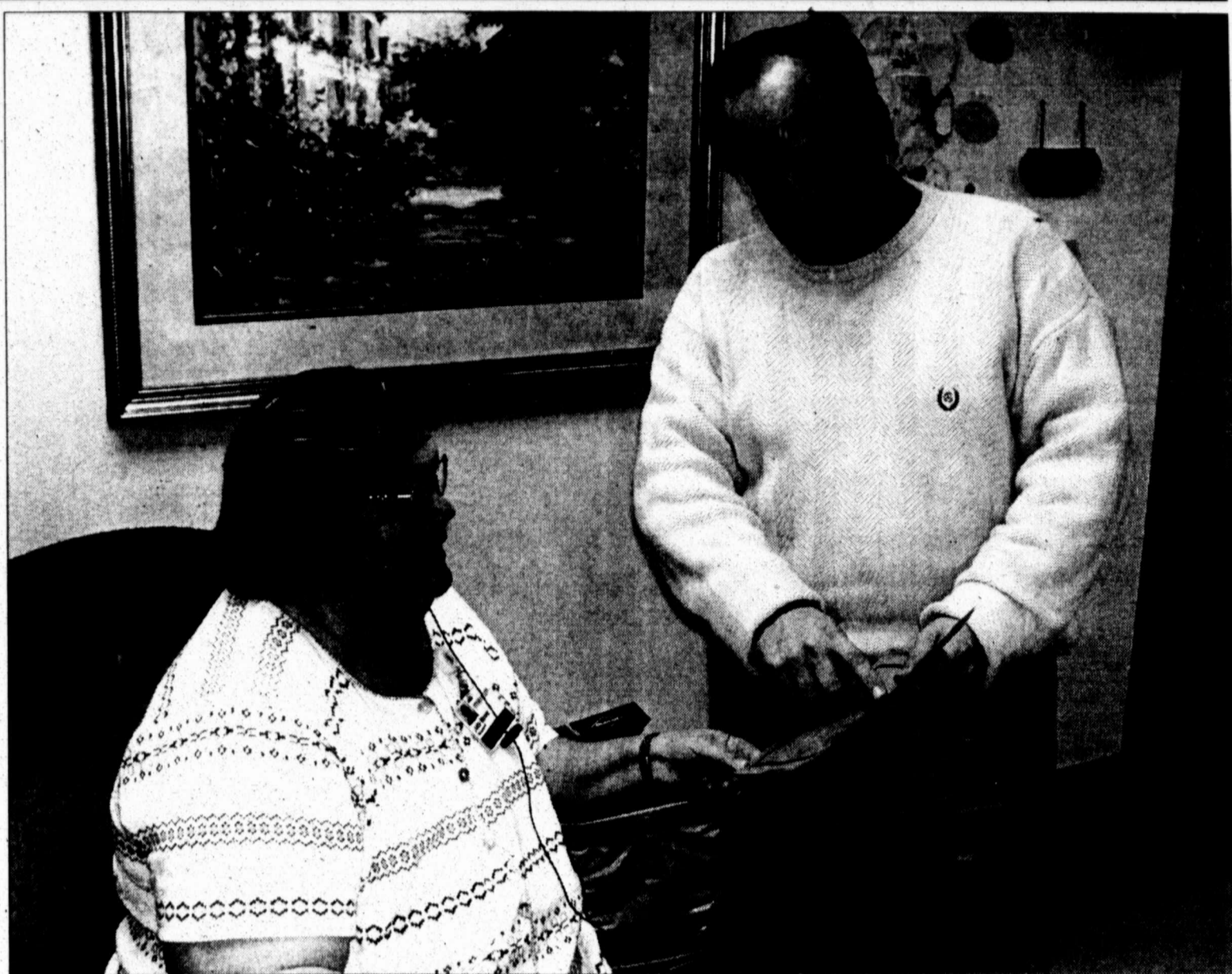
"The community of Big Spring has so much to offer," said Mazzara. "Coming from Houston, Big Spring is just like paradise. When they say Big Heart, Big Sky, Big Spring, there's nothing more true."

Even before they came out with that slogan, I knew it was a place where all of the citizens have big hearts. From day one, when I first came to this community, everyone has been very helpful.

"I was having trouble with my sprinkler system. I made one phone call, and within three minutes, three different people called me just to make sure everything was straightened out and working. That's the kind of customer service you find in Big Spring."

While the daily hustle and bustle of running a facility that is home to more than 100 veterans can definitely run a person ragged, Mazzara is quick to point out the rewards that await him around every corner of the facility.

"My favorite part of what I do is the continuity of care that I have with the residents and family members," said Mazzara. "It's not like you see them one day, and then you don't see them the next. It's an ongoing thing. Just to see the smile on their faces. Helping them out with different issues or helping them out with their long term care needs. And the comfort the families have when they're entrusting their parents' lives with



Ben Mazzara, administrator for the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, goes over plans for a senior health fair with receptionist Judy Moore. Mazzara moved to Big Spring from Houston to take the position.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

us. It's just to see the smiles on people's faces.

"We get so tied up in our day-to-day operations, that sometimes we don't get the opportunity to say thank you. I try to say thank you as much as I can to all of the residents and to the family members. Thank you for entrusting us with your parents and your loved ones."

"I think it's also very rewarding that we have such a dedicated staff here at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez. From nursing, dietary, housekeeping to maintenance and activities, all of the staff here has a calling to serve

seniors. And it's really rewarding that I'm surrounded by such a dedicated group of individuals."

While the smiles offer the greatest rewards for Mazzara, it's a simple fact of life that the same faces can't be there forever, a fact that Mazzara considers the saddest and most joyful prospects — all at the same time.

"It's probably the saddest moments in our careers," said Mazzara. "I attended three funerals over the weekend, and it's really sad — it's the saddest part of what we do. But even then, when I walk into a funeral home,

I see the smiles on the family's faces saying thank you. Thank you for being there, and thank you for helping us. It's a very sad moment, but at the same time it's a very joyous occasion because they're in paradise with God. There's comfort for the family, knowing that we were here for them."

"It's tough. I get through those times by praying for the residents. Praying for the family. I ask God to bring comfort to the family members who are feeling the loss, and I pray for the rest of the residents and family who are here."

Mazzara isn't without a

hobby, either. The Houston native said his free time focus has four wheels and plenty of character.

"I like antique cars. I have an old 1968 Volkswagen that I've restored," said Mazzara. "I don't have it here in Big Spring though. When I fly into Houston, that's what I use for transportation. I really like collecting cars. I also have a Camaro. So if I'm not driving to Houston, I have an extra set of wheels waiting for me at the other end."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer

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Enjoying some real Good Music

Big Spring businessman and Crossroads minister Jay Shewmake has always been around music



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Jay Shewmake plans one of the guitars at his Good Music store in downtown Big Spring.

Walk into Good Music on Third and Main in downtown Big Spring anytime and you'll likely find Jay Shewmake on his computer. Robert Johnson recordings playing in the not-so-distant background. Sometimes you find Shewmake making his own music — on the guitar, or the keyboard, or digital piano or.... you get the idea.

Music is and has always been part of Shewmake's life, and he shares an equal love for blues, country, gospel and other types of music.

Big Spring is Shewmake's "working address," so to speak. He actually resides in Tarzan and pastors — that's right, pastors — in Midland. Like music itself, he touches a lot of lives.

Locally, most people know him through Good Music, which features new musical instruments and accessories as well as a host of collectible items. Running a music store is something he's wanted to do for a long time.

"I had been looking at several places — Midland, Stanton and Big Spring. I was familiar with this town and several people in it. This building came up for

rent and I called them and said I'll take it," Shewmake said. That was in March 2003.

His love of music came at an early age.

"I came from a large family, eight brothers and two sisters. Almost all of my brothers played instruments and instruments were always around the house," he said.

He began playing guitar when he was 8 years old and by 12 he was playing on the radio for station WBAP.

"I got paid \$12 a week and my meals. And they swore I was eating them out of house and home," he said.

"I played lead guitar and I have short stubby fingers so I'd reach over and play with my thumb instead of my fingers. It

was a sort of an eye-catcher I guess. Every Saturday night I'd play at the Mesquite Hoedown. That's where I lost my stage fright."

Despite playing guitar at an early age, Shewmake traces his love of music back to high school at Mesquite and his instructor, Frank W. Greenhaw.

"He accused me of playing by ear all the time and I was. I was not reading the music," said Shewmake. "But he let me stay in the band anyway. He's instrumental in my appreciation of music."

After trying several instruments, Shewmake settled in on the clarinet. Years later though, he was playing another instrument — the fiddle — while at

Hardin-Simmons University.

"We formed a rodeo band in 1952. We'd go out to towns, crank up out of the back of a pickup, and we always drew a crowd. After a bunch of people gathered around, we'd start telling them about the rodeo. We went from town to town doing that, promoting the rodeo," he recalled.

Shewmake spent much of his adult life working in the lumber business. He started out in Big Spring, and then later went to work as an auditor for a lumber company in Houston. He stayed in the business for 15 years.

"Then I surrendered to preach and I became a minister," Shewmake explained.

He graduated from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth in 1966. He's been a pastor at Travis Baptist Church in Midland for the past 10 years, and pastored at the Lenorah Baptist Church for 14 years before that.

"All along the way, I kept my interest in music and have always appreciated it," he said.

These days, he does most of his playing in his store. He plays the guitar, banjo, harmonica, electric keyboards, digital piano, the clarinet and the "straight ol' piano."

He leaves the fiddle out of his

list of instruments, "because I haven't played the violin since college and probably couldn't anymore," he said. There are plenty of them for sale at his businesses, so it's no problem if he ever decides to pick one up again.

What he really enjoys are the electric keyboards and digital piano.

"I mention those separately because believe me, they are not the same at all. But I love it. There are just two many fancy things you can play right now," he said with a grin.

Shewmake doesn't just play music; he collects musical antiques. Those visiting his shop can find a 1906 Edison cylinder player, a 1920s Perfection wind-up Victrola, a 1950 RCA high fidelity record player and a 1986 Rowe 200 song jukebox, among other things. He has some Elvis collectibles, vintage fiddles and celebrity photographs.

Shewmake and his wife, who is deceased, had three girls and a boy.

"All of the girls are involved in education; they are teachers," the Loop High School graduate said proudly. "And my son is a computer software writer for General Electric. He plays guitar."

"The girls don't play but they sure can sing."

Right now, Shewmake has a new project.

"I just rented the building next door, but I'm not sure what I am going to do with it yet," he said. "I'll figure it out though."

According to the signs on that door, you can catch him at Good Music, where a song is always within arm's reach.

Bill McClellan,
news editor

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*** MAY 21ST ***
Mini-Market Day in conjunction with the Big Spring POWWOW

*** JUNE 19TH ***
Juneteenth Celebration in conjunction with Lakeview Reunion - In Planning

*** JULY ***
1st Saturday - Opening of the Farmer's Market
2nd Saturday - Ice Cream Eating Contest & Farmer's Market
3rd Saturday - Craft Vendors Spectacular & Farmer's Market - In Planning
4th Saturday - Garage Sale at the Market & Farmer's Market - In Planning

*** AUGUST ***
1st Saturday - Watermelon Eating Contest & Farmer's Market
2nd Saturday - Farmer's Market
3rd Saturday - Home Canning Demonstration & Farmer's Market
4th Saturday - Farmer's Market

*** SEPTEMBER ***
1st Saturday - Labor Day Celebration & Farmer's Market
2nd Saturday - Farmer's Market
3rd Saturday - Diez y Seis Septiembre in conjunction with LULAC
4th Saturday - Farmer's Market

*** OCTOBER ***
1st Saturday - German Sausage Festival & Farmer's Market - In Planning
2nd Saturday - Safety Saturday & Farmer's Market
3rd Saturday - Farmer's Market
4th Saturday - Halloween Candy & Market Closing Events

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Hot dog!

Tom Tafuro is making quite a name as the West Texas hot dog king

He's known as the hot dog king of Sand Springs, and if things keep going the way they're currently heading, he may end up the hot dog king of the Lone Star State.

Ever since he opened New York's Finest Hot Dogs with a stainless steel hot dog cart near Interstate 20 in Sand Springs, Tom Tafuro has been something of a cultural enigma. New York style hot dogs from a cart?

However, any questions concerning just how successful Tafuro's idea could be have been washed away in a sea of mustard and his famous onion sauce.

"Ever since they featured me on Texas Country Reporter, it's been out of control," said Tafuro with a laugh. "I went to a festival in Waxahatchie recently, and I had people waiting three hours in line for a hot dog. And that was the most asked question at the festival — where's the hot dog man? Next year I'm definitely going to take some help with me."

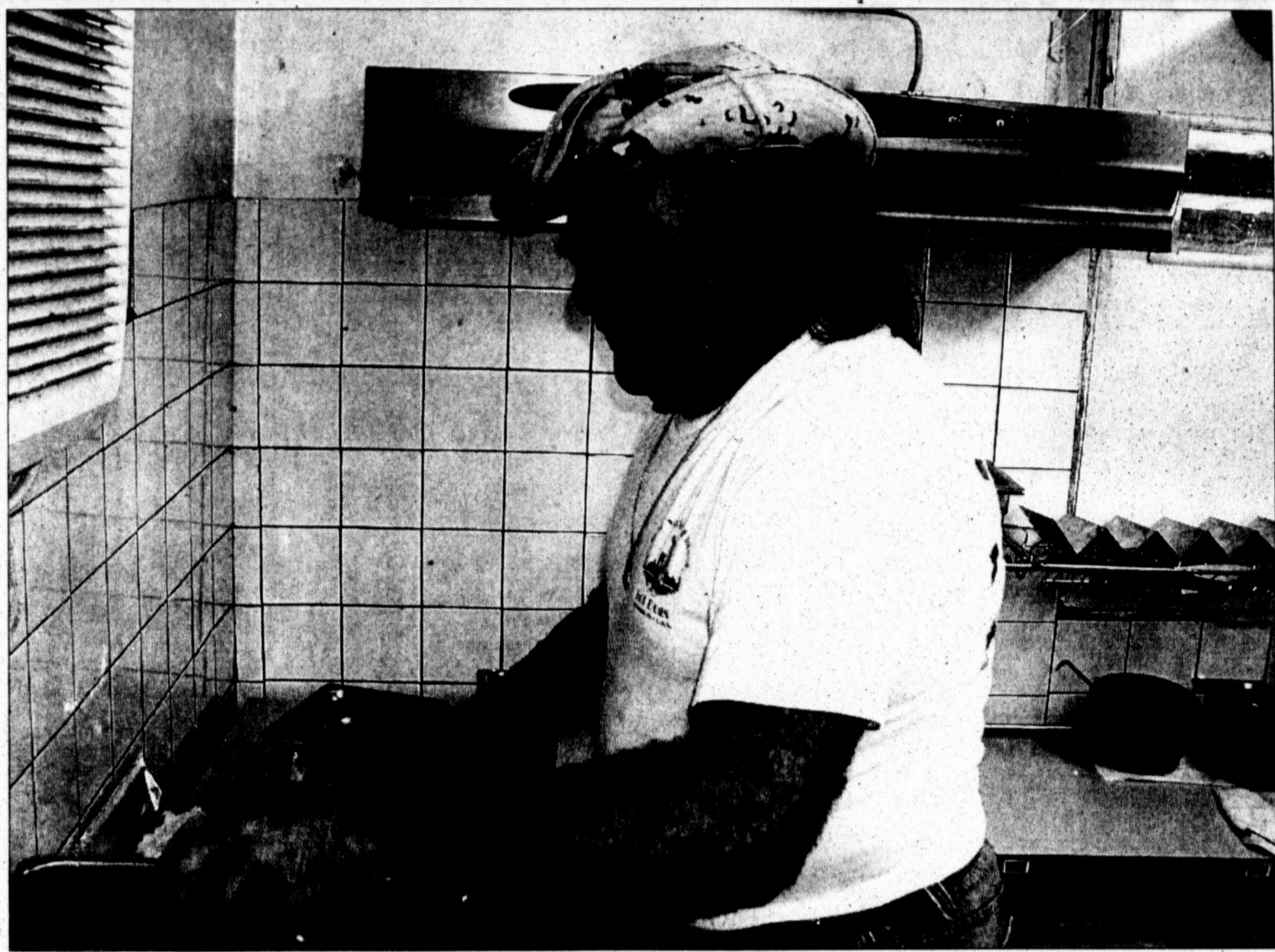
"I have people coming from everywhere now,"

he said. "I never would have believed that show was so popular. Everywhere I go in Texas now people are like 'there goes the hot dog guy.' It's amazing."

And while the hot dog cart is his status quo in a part of Texas that most likely thinks sauerkraut is a bitter German, it's still one step from his dream of owning his own restaurant — a dream that is slowly coming true for the New York native.

"I'm slowly doing it," said Tafuro. "Right now it's just on Friday nights, and I offer Italian take-out. I'm sticking to one menu now, which is spaghetti and chicken cutlet parmesan or spaghetti and meatball parmesan. It comes with my salad and my garlic bread, and it's \$8.95. That way everyone can sort of get used to my cooking."

"I've got my eye on a spot right now that will let me better serve my customers in West Texas. It's in downtown Big Spring, at Main Street and Second Street. I'm working with the Downtown Revitalization Association on getting into that building."



Thomas Tafuro, hailed as the hot dog king of West Texas, fixes a hot dog for a customer on his way to Dallas. Tafuro is planning to open an Italian restaurant, possibly in downtown Big Spring.

"It will be more convenient for my local customers," said Tafuro. "That way the guy that can't run that far out there for lunch during the week, it'll be a home run for them. I'm also going to do breakfast. A New York style breakfast with home fries."

"At that point I'll be hiring people," said Tafuro. "We'll see how it works out. I may even open places in Midland and Odessa... I can't duplicate myself, but my dishes will all be the same. We'll use the main kitchen to cook everything. I could make my baked zitti or something else and then just ship it out. I mean it's only like 27 miles away."

Tafuro said he first found his way to Big

Spring as so many people did in the 1970s — through the military.

"I first found Big Spring when I was stationed here in 1973," said Tafuro. "I was stationed at Webb Air Force Base as a crew chief working on T-37s. Back then no one wanted to stay here. There were no RO (reverse osmosis) systems and you couldn't even drink the water. After I left Big Spring I worked on airplanes for a few companies and eventually went back to the city (New York) where I was in the reserves and a cop with the NYPD for 20 years, retiring in 1996."

"Toward the end, I got hurt, so they made me a cook in the reserve. So I got some experience there, and my mother had

a restaurant, so it was no brainer for me to do this, to cook."

Tafuro said life takes on a different pace and style in West Texas from what he was used to living in New York City.

"People here are a lot more friendly than they are in New York. It took some getting used to for me," said Tafuro. "The first time I realized just how different it was here was when I went into the post office and I left a \$20 bill on the counter. I found it in my post office box later with a note telling me I'd left it on the counter. I just couldn't believe it. I had to write everyone back home and tell them what happened. They didn't believe it either."

So, did he think he'd become the hot dog king the first time he wheeled his hot dog cart out in Sand Springs?

"It's just out of control," said Tafuro. "I had no idea. I figured I'd be sitting back in my camper right now reading a magazine, selling one or two hot dogs every once in a while. I think I might have bitten off more than I can chew. That's why I'm looking to hire and train people. That way I can sit back and enjoy it."

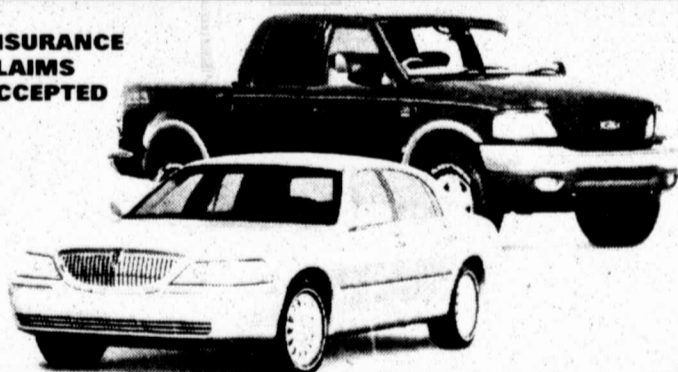
And with so many tasty hot dogs to make, it's no wonder West Texans are enjoying it as well.

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer

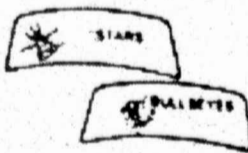
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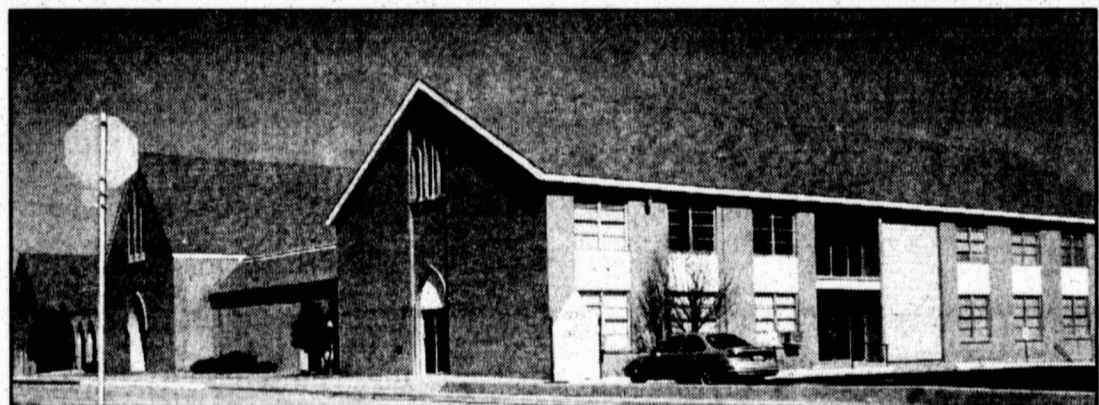


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The Church of Christ that now meets at 14th and Main in Big Spring was first assembled in 1912. Believers in this restoration plea first began meeting in the "Old School Presbyterian church building. By 1924 the group had out grown that facility. They purchased land at the corner of 4th and Gregg where a small meeting place was built. By 1928 the membership was approximately 160 members and still larger facilities were needed. After lots were obtained at the corner of 14th and Main, a building was begun in January 1929 and completed in March. Other buildings have been added through the years as needed.

Today the Christians meeting at 14th and Main remain true to the restoration plea. The Bible is the only source of direction for conversion, worship and living. Jesus is the head of the church. Elders, deacons, preachers and teachers are appointed by the guidelines of the Bible. Unity is achieved by letting God's Word be the final word in all matters.

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Back home and loving it

Nancy Allen proved the old saying wrong — you can go home again. Allen, a Big Spring native and a 1965 graduate of Big Spring High School, spent more than three decades in various parts of the country — first as a housewife, then as a teacher — before returning to Big Spring in 2003.

Long-time Big Spring residents will know Allen as the daughter of Dr. Clyde Thomas, who practiced medicine at Hall-Bennett Hospital for many years. Also, she is the sister of County Attorney Mike Thomas and realtor Katie Grimes.

Students at Howard College, however, know her as Dr. Allen, professor of biological sciences and instructor of zoology, botany, microbiology, entomology and nutrition.

Nutrition? "It's really very much one of the biological sciences," Allen said. "The chemistry of the food and how it reacts to the body is very much biology."

Teaching at a small community college is a far cry from the life Allen led after leaving Big Spring in the 1960s.

For many years, she contented herself as a housewife and mother. She had three children of her own, then adopted three more. For good measure, she served as a foster parent for "about 40" other children over the years.

But when her youngest child began school, she decided to go back herself, figuring that "a second income would come in handy." She eventually received a master's degree and teaching certificate from the

University of Texas at Austin and began teaching middle-school science classes in Burnet in 1984.

"I did not know I wanted a career. I was perfectly happy being a stay-at-home mom," Allen said. "But I fell head over heels in love with teaching. I just feel so blessed to have this job."

It helped that her students were enthusiastic about learning, she said.

"Teaching science is not like teaching some other subjects," Allen said. "The kids come in as natural science lovers. They just burst into the class ready to learn ... It was a joy. Every day was an adventure."

She spent several years in the Burnet school system — teaching four of her children "and almost every kid in town" along the way — before returning to UT for her doctorate in 1994.

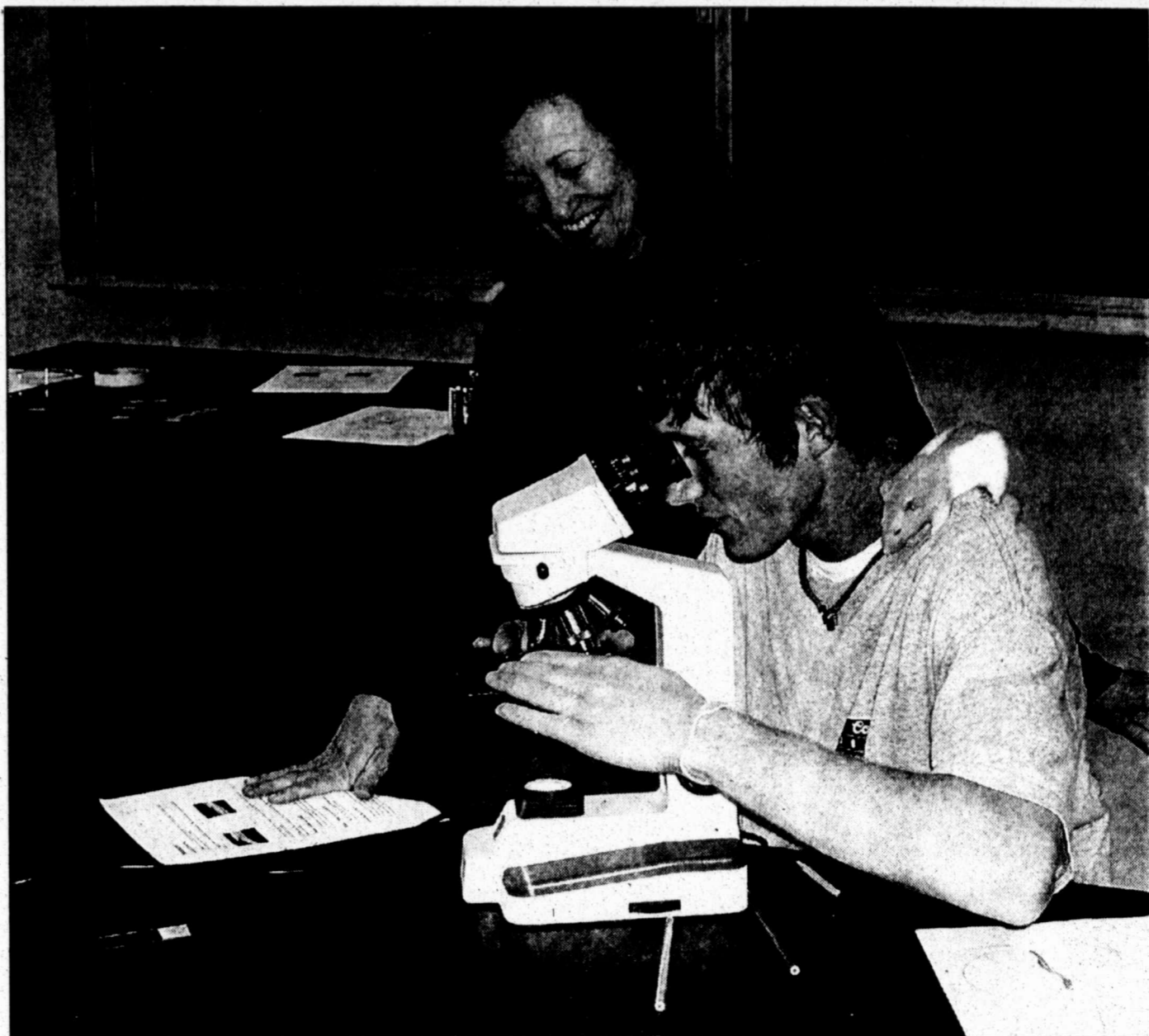
At the university, she was involved in project management for Native American education. That led to her becoming curriculum director for the Four Directions Challenge in Technology Project, a six-year, \$6 million program in which 19 Native American schools and four universities worked with parents, elders and students to create culturally relevant education through technology.

"We used technology to bring real-life experiences of the children into the classroom," Allen said.

She also holds the distinction of creating the first completely online course offered by UT.

But right after the turn of the century, she began to feel the pull of her roots.

"There's a Navajo custom that



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Dr. Nancy Allen assists student Ryan O'Donnell during a biology lab session at Howard College. Allen, a Big Spring native, is in her first year teaching various biological science classes at HC. The disinterested rodent on O'Donnell's shoulder is Cordelia, a class favorite.

after a child is born, the parents bury the umbilical cord outside their hut. They believe the umbilical cord will always pull you back home," Allen said. "It must be true, because I think my umbilical cord pulled me back here."

"My parents' home had come up for sale, and I was kind of at a life-changing moment, and I wanted to come home," she said.

Many people who leave home for more than 30 years might find the old homestead changed a great deal, but not Allen.

"What struck me was how much it hadn't changed," she said. "I moved back into the same house ... A lot of my old friends are still here, my family is here ... I felt right at home."

At first, she worked with the University of Texas doing online instruction and project management, but a friend soon noticed an ad in the newspaper about an opening for a teacher at Howard College.

She found that she has thoroughly enjoyed teaching at a small institution.

"I have some really great stu-

dents," Allen said. "I also enjoy knowing almost everyone on campus. It's easier getting things done than at one of the mega-universities."

"Students should be the focus of education, and at a community college, they are," she added.


And she enjoys being back in the classroom.

"I've always loved science," she said. "I love nature, and the mystery and magic of the natural world ... It's just fun."

—Steve Reagan, staff writer

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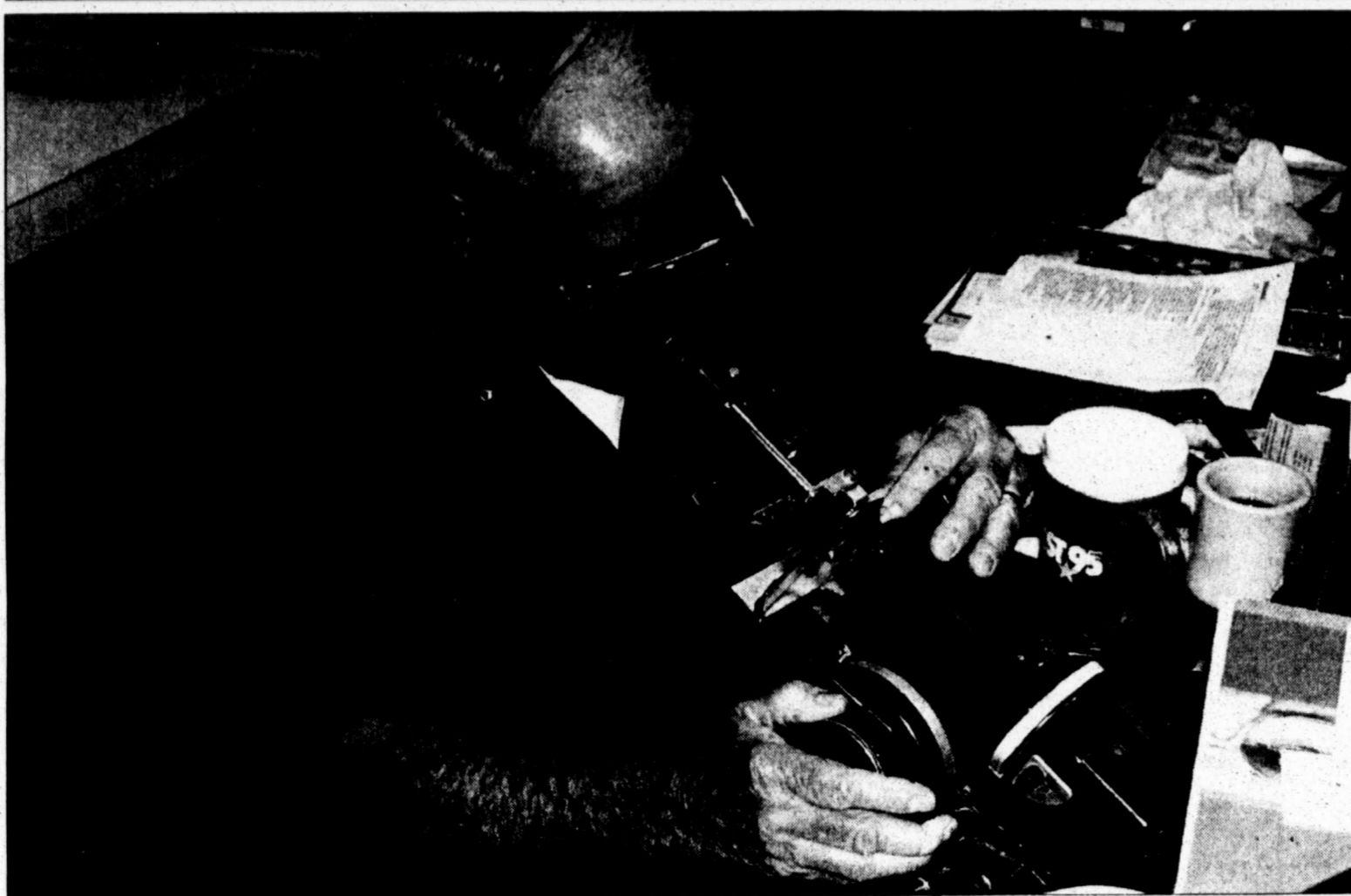


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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Optician Tom Mills works on a pair of glasses. Mills, who owns and operates Mills Optical in Big Spring, has been a member of Lions International for years, helping provide recycled and refitted eye glasses to people in third-world nations.

Reaching out across nations

Tom Mills helps a whole world to see more clearly

While many good neighbor's unselfish deeds go unsung everyday, how many can say they're a good neighbor to people thousands of miles away?

Optician Tom Mills, that's who.

Mills, who owns and operates Mills Optical in Big Spring, has been a member of Lions International for years, helping provide recycled and refitted eye glasses to people in third-world nations.

So, why in the world would someone fly all the way to a place like Honduras to teach people how to work with eye glasses?

"The satisfaction of accomplishing the job," said Mills. "A job that just a few years ago we would have looked at and said it was impossible. But it's not impossible."

"The friends that you have here in town, you could probably number them in the hundreds, maybe less. Right now, I have more friends outside the United States than I have here. I've made a tremendous number of friends through the Lions Club here in the U.S. and in Central America."

Mills said his friends, who may very well number in the thousands these days, make his trips south of the U.S. worth the long flights and lousy airplane food.

"During my last trip to Honduras, to the hospital at San Pedro Sula, I had a young man that was my interpreter," said Mills. "He was a tremendous young man and interpreter, and when we finished up the training they asked me if I had any comments to make. I told them the only thing that I have to say about this is it sure is nice to come back and be amongst my friends. The young people who were working on this over there are my friends, and that's how I feel about a lot of the people that I've met in these foreign countries."

"By myself, I can do very little in those countries," he added. "If I went to one of those places and set out to do 10 pair of glasses, I might be working in that laboratory as hard as I can all day long. However, the kids that I train to do that work can do it really fast now. There's four of them, and I'm only one man. That makes a big difference."

"Each one of those individuals at the hospital in San Pedro Sula made a pair of bi-focal glasses to fit each one of them, and that's part of the training they went through while I was down there. I told them how to do it, turned my back and walked away and let them do it. If they run into a problem they will holler at me, but that doesn't happen very often."

At a time when many Americans have put the idea of traveling outside the U.S. away because of terrorism and other dangers abroad, Mills has already made more than 10 trips to South America, and you would never guess what aspects of life in these foreign countries scares him the most.

"It's a different environment. I wouldn't drive a car there to save my life," said Mills with a laugh. "It's really a dangerous place as far as I'm concerned because of the way people drive. You don't get out and walk around after dark, either. There's plenty of danger down there, but we pretty much have a rule — we don't go anywhere alone. And if we do go somewhere other than to the hotel or hospital, it's to the ice cream parlor. That's about the extent of where we go."

"We have a good time," he continued. "I enjoy working with the poor people. They have no money, and what really strikes me is how many lives one pair of glasses can really touch. One pair of recycled eye glasses. You fit those on a man who is trying to make a living for his family, and it's going to touch that entire family. That can be as many as 10 or 11 people."

Mills said he plans to return to Honduras for yet another training session, and it's no secret why he's looking forward to it.

"I'm going back to Honduras in April," said Mills with a smile. "I'm going to a part of the country I've never been before. I figure some of the people that I've worked with in San Pedro Sula will be there, and it will be good to see my friends once again. It's also going to be good to make some new friends, and I'm really looking forward to that."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer

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Marie Snyder provided from this cubicle

When she woes, Ma

Many I Big may M a Young's voice, they don't always her face.

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Born Marie Snyder March 5, moved to Sand S 1962. Young Coahoma school n't finish her until she was an "I married a child when I was old and after that Ily kept growin knew I wanted tion, so as soon

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Maintaining lines of communication



Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Marie Young provides technical support for Crest Star Communications Internet customers from this cubicle office on Scurry Street.

When she's not helping others with computer woes, Marie Young keeps a caring eye on family

Many people in Big Spring may recognize Marie Young's voice, although they don't always recognize her face.

That's because she works behind the scenes, providing invaluable service for Internet customers of WesTex Telecom as the technical support specialist.

"I handle all sorts of questions, from teaching customers how to set up and use their e-mail accounts to searching the Web for answers to difficult questions," said Young.

Born Marie Green in Snyder March 5, 1956, she moved to Sand Springs in 1962. Young attended Coahoma schools but didn't finish her education until she was an adult.

"I married and had a child when I was 16 years old and after that my family kept growing. But I knew I wanted an education, so as soon as I had

the youngest in junior high school, I started college," she said.

She earned an associate's degree in computer science from Howard College, and learned additional computer skills working for the distance learning department of the college while she attended classes.

"I was a work-study student and then became a part-time assistant there," she said.

Once she completed her degree, she went to work for Creststar Communications, a subsidiary of Wes Tex Telecom, based in Stanton.

"I really enjoy my job and I love the people I work with," she said.

Along with being the primary technical support technician for the Big Spring office, Young also provides invaluable service to many people in the community.

Many weekends, she works on computers, either installing software,

removing viruses or revamping hard drives.

And she charges low fees for her work, as most of her customers are age 65 or older.

"I just really feel for the people of the older generation when it comes to computers. Some of these people are determined to become computer literate, no matter what it takes, and they are just devastated when their computer gets a virus and they can't operate it to communicate with their family and friends," she said.

Others have no computer knowledge and rely on Young to walk them through the steps of sending e-mail.

"I had one customer ask me about e-mail problems her friend out of state was having. Her friend was not my customer so I really couldn't do anything to help her, but I was able to give her a few ideas to pass along," she said.

Friendship is one cornerstone of Young's life, as well as family. She has

five children, four of whom live in Big Spring, and she has seven grandchildren.

"Family is very important to me and I feel so blessed to have my children living close. I came from a family of nine and though I didn't appreciate that when I was younger, I understand how lucky I am now," she said.

Her youngest son and his wife live with Young and her husband, Joe, in a home they bought in February.

"I've wanted my own home a long time, and I am tickled to have a big house to stretch out in. I learned to share with eight brothers and sisters and we made do with what we had and now we have our own home," she said.

She also has her youngest grandson, Trey, 8 months, living with her.

"I have found as kids get older and leave home, they often return and bring someone with them," she jokes.

Family is the center of her life and being a good mother, available to her children when they need her, marks Young's life.

Her own mother, Wanda, died of cancer when Young was 14, and she always remembers how hard it was growing up without her influence and support.

"I really try to be there for my children," she said.

With three active, ornery and inventive daughters and two steady, dependable sons, Young said she sees many family holidays and reunions in her future.

And she said family extends beyond blood relatives.

"I have friends who are

as close as family to me," she said.

One of Young's qualities that benefits both her customers and her friends is her ability to listen. She has a rare gift of listening without judging, offering advice only when asked.

"I believe a good sense of humor is an important quality in people and faith is a person's most important possession," she said.

And she will continue to provide the support on which her customers depend.

"I really like to see the light go on when someone grasps how to run their computer, and I always love the challenge of a new set of questions," she said.

—Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

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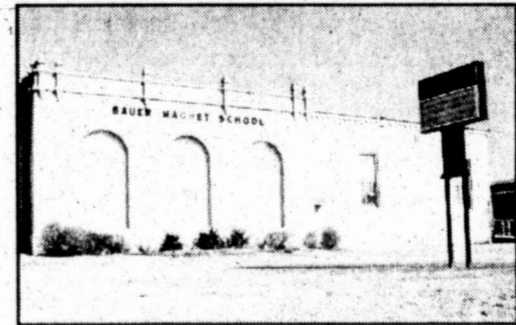


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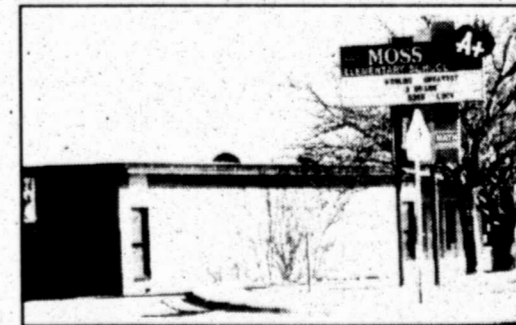
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Pursuing her dreams

And they are coming true

Sue Bagwell is living proof that dreams can and do come true if you work hard enough.

Bagwell — a local artist whose media's include acrylic, watercolor, latex and collage paintings — got to experience the opportunity of a lifetime this past winter when she was asked by Cal'Poly University to voluntarily work on a float for the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

"It was a dream come true for me," she said. "That was one of my goals and it had been on my list for awhile."

Bagwell went to the event in Pasadena with a group of artists from Louisiana, but it

was not the first time she had attended the Rose Bowl Parade.

"I grew up in California and always went to the parade, but I couldn't pass up another opportunity to go back," said Bagwell. "It was pretty exciting to be a part of the parade and not just a spectator."

Bagwell helped work on one of just five hand made (volunteer) floats at the event. She spent four days prior to the parade decorating and performed such tasks as snipping thorns off roses, gluing seeds, beans and rice on pieces of the float and putting roses into vials.

"There were only five volunteer floats in the whole bunch and the rest were done professionally,"

said Bagwell. "I used the opportunity to get experience and was not concerned with it being on a volunteer basis."

The opportunity this past year in Pasadena opened Bagwell up for a possible return to Southern California next year. She recently submitted a design entry for the 2006

Rose Bowl Parade and hopes next year will be a year where the float she helps make is her own.



Local artist Sue Bagwell begins a painting in her studio. Bagwell's artistic mediums are watercolor, acrylics and latex (house paint).

"The biggest thing for me is to see something I designed being built big," said Bagwell. "It is a long shot, but I can't win if I don't try. That's how the field works. You put yourself out there to be judged."

The students at Cal'Poly will select their five favorites and those five will then go to the tournament house for final judging. The 2006 theme is "Magical" and Bagwell's design is based on the magic of flight.

The winning design will get two tickets to the Rose Bowl game, parade and banquet. Bagwell had always been interested in art while she was growing up, but has been seriously painting for the past eight years.

"I just had a knack for art," said Bagwell, who today paints for herself and for commission. "Lots of people encouraged me into art and I just leaned to what I was good at."

"I just recently got the opportunity to develop it to a more professional level, but I had always wanted to do it."

Bagwell is represented today at an art gallery in Ruidoso, N.M., and also locally at Displays of Splendor. Her latest local display was at the Heritage Museum from last October to November. The display — which moved to San Antonio through this past January — included 46 paintings and six pieces of pottery.

"The display is now sitting in my house," said Bagwell. "I am trying to find somewhere else to bring it to."

Take away Pasadena and the many displays she has been a part of, Bagwell's latest accomplishment came this past month when she had a painting published in the April issue of WaterColor World.

"I am just now starting to take risks and get myself out there," said Bagwell, whose representation in WaterColor World was her first in a national magazine.

Bagwell has also taken her art to other countries. She spent three weeks in Bali, Indonesia, and San Miguel, Mexico, and did compositions (drawings) of local people and places.

"It's a neat way to travel because you get to interact with the people," said Bagwell. "We just picked a spot and drew there for two or three hours at a time. I didn't feel like a tourist, either."

"The best thing about art is that it is a universal language. It is the same everywhere and you don't have to speak a certain language to be able to understand it."

Bagwell's art is influenced by Douglas Walton — a teacher from Louisiana — and the Impressionist's Movement, more specifically Modigliani.

She currently has a lot of local and out of town people who collect her work.

"Some people have just one; but a lot of times they want more."

—Troy Hyde, sports editor



This is a picture of Bagwell's design entered in the 2006 Rose Bowl Parade float design contest. If chosen by the committee, Bagwell's design will be worked on by volunteers and made into a large float, which will be displayed during next year's Rose Bowl Parade.



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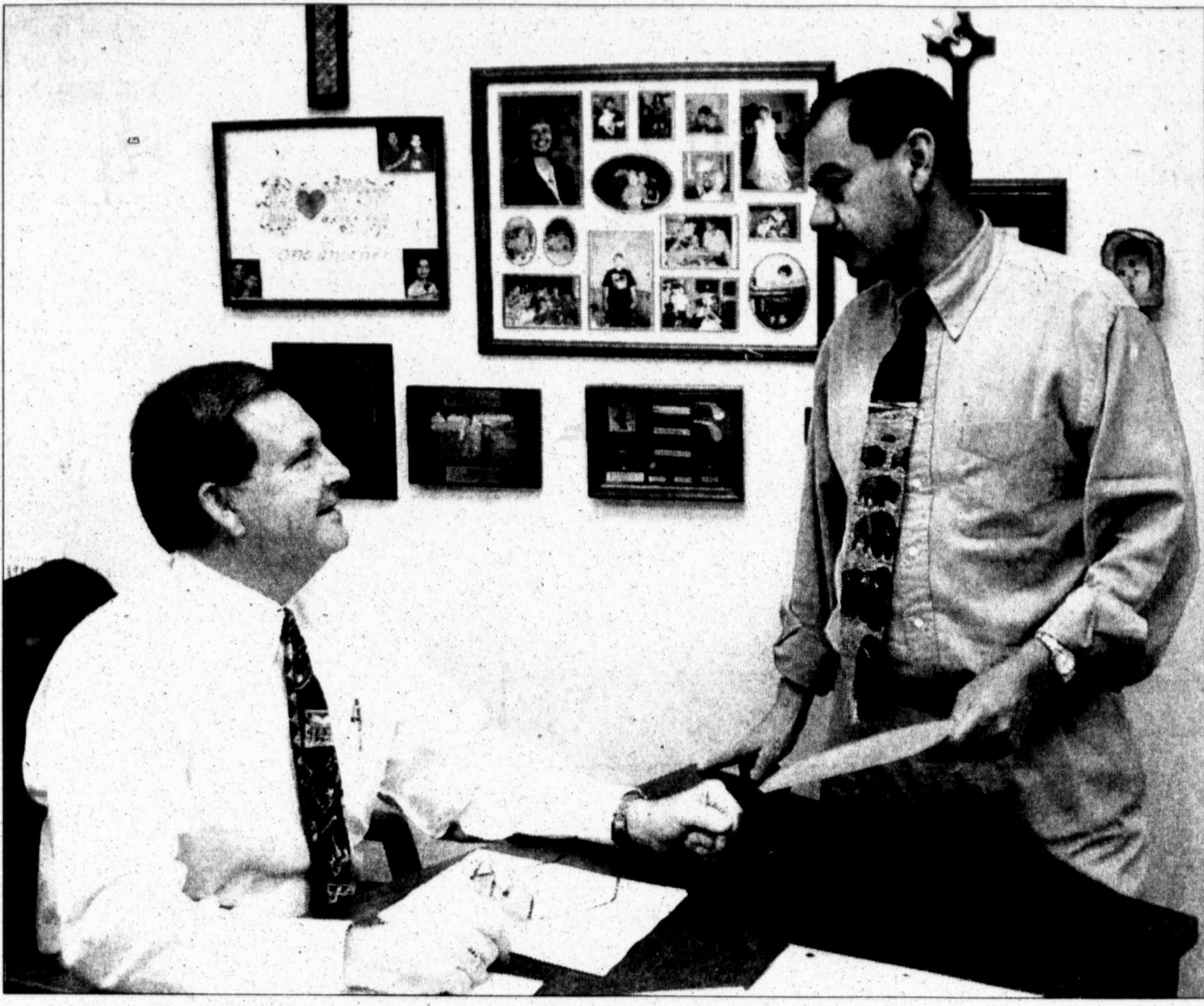


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GOOD NEIGHBORS

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SECTION F

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald
Sunday, March 27, 2005

Donna Nixon: Making sound decisions

Big Spring's Donna Nixon keeps her ears open, literally, and brings old world skills into her modern life.

The 43-year-old mother of four leads a busy life, filled with home schooling and Christian teaching, volunteering with the Walk to Emmaus events and operating sound systems for her church as well as several annual events.

"Being the sound technician at my church is what keeps me going really. I practice with the Praise Team on Saturdays, but Sundays are really the days I work the hardest," Nixon said.

Born in Big Spring in April of 1961, the former Donna Camp graduated from Coahoma High School in 1979. She attended Howard College for two years, working first toward a certified public accounting degree, then changing to an art major.

"I really didn't like accounting and I love art, mostly, drawing. I took private lessons and I still piddle around with oil painting and drawing," she said.

While attending Howard College, Nixon worked for TG&Y when it moved to the College Park Shopping Center. She also worked for Sunshine Christian Book Store.

But all that changed when she married Jack Nixon in March of 1981. The rigors of college, work, marriage and then impending motherhood forced Nixon to make some decisions.

"I married in the middle of (a semester) of art class, and got pregnant one month after we married. I worked until I had Christen, and I've been able to stay home with my children ever since," she said.

Jack and Donna have four children, Christen, 22, a student at Howard College, 18-year-old twin daughters, Stephani and Bethani, and 13-year-old Jacob.

But more than marriage and childbirth changing her life, when Christen began having problems in public school, Nixon elected to keep her at home and teach her.

"Christen was in the public school system two years, into the second grade. But the teachers wouldn't work with her learning disability and insisted we put her on medication, but they still couldn't handle it. So I pulled her out of school, took her off the medicine and let her do her work laying in the floor if she wanted. She did well after that," Nixon said.



Donna Nixon operates the sound equipment at Cornerstone Church each Sunday. Along with the duties of maintaining good quality to the music and message, Nixon also records the sermon and makes compact discs or cassette tapes for the members and guests of the church to purchase at a reduced price.

Jacob was 2 years old when Nixon made that decision, and she continued teaching the other children as well.

Today Nixon teaches at Maranatha Baptist Academy, using her salary to pay the tuition for Stephani and Jacob. She said as the children's studies became more complex, she needed more structure for their curriculum.

"Some of their high school subjects are tough for me, they are so advanced," she said.

In fact, the primary curriculum she chose during her home school years is the ACE, which stands for Accelerated Christian Education, also used by Maranatha. Many students involved with this course of study advance past their grade levels, because it allows a student to proceed at their own pace, she said.

"Most home schoolers use an eclectic group of curriculums. I came back to ACE because it is thorough with a Christian world view. The students are not taught evolution and they are taught Christian values. They are also taught respect and how to get along with others, all set in a Christian environment," she said.

The hardest part to home schooling, she said, is the discipline and staying on track. And because of the nature of home schooling, the classroom is always open.

"The world is really the classroom when you home school. And I'm

able to use everyday events as opportunities to show how the lessons apply. Home school teaches them how to live, not just how to learn," she said.

One example she remembers is, when Christen was learning fractions. Her daughter had trouble grasping the concept until a cooking lesson demonstrated how fractions apply.

"When I showed her that one-fourth cup plus one-fourth cup equals a half, and that two half cups made a whole cup, she began to understand. Seeing a child grasp the work, for it to start making sense and that light bulb going off when they get it, is one of my favorite rewards," Nixon said.

Along with cooking skills and teaching skills, Nixon also enjoys sewing and has passed those skills into her children, too.

"Bethani made her prom dress last year and Stephani is making her's this year. I was brought up sewing and remember sewing Barbie doll clothes first. I love to make clothes and made all our clothes for years. Blue jeans are hard to sew, though," she said.

Nixon also enjoys crocheting, needlepoint, cross stitch, reading and she loves all sorts of crafts.

That ability, putting pieces of fabric together, translated into another, hobby and ultimately professional opportunities for Nixon, when she was

forced to substitute as a sound technician for Jack one Sunday.

"I am really a self-taught sound engineer," she said.

She explained that 18 years ago, she was in the church choir when a sound system was bought for the church. Her husband and one other man installed the system.

"But then the first Sunday it came time run it, Jack was at work and Danny was on call and I was sitting in the choir,

we were getting ready to start singing and the beeper went off, which was my signal that I had to run the sound system.

"I got out of the choir, ran down the outside aisle by the pews to the sound booth. I ran the system that day, but I told Jack if I was going to have to do that again, I wanted to know what I was doing. So the next week, I took the whole system apart and put it back together again and it worked," she said.

She said she continues to learn sound engineering. She and Jack operate the sound system for the Easter Sunrise Services each year, were responsible for the sound systems for the March for Jesus, have done the sound for the Vietnam Memorial Committee and also do sound for the Rock the Desert concert each summer.

Rock the Desert is a three-day Christian concert event in Midland each August. Youth groups from area churches, including several from Big Spring, attend the concert.

"This year Jack will be the stage manager at Rock the Desert," she said.

A deep, constant faith is a hallmark of Nixon's life and defines who she is to most of her friends and acquaintances. She has served with the Walk to Emmaus ministry for six or seven years and also works with Chrysalis, the teen-age version of Emmaus.

"I don't know how people live without God. I get something different on every walk I participate in," she said.








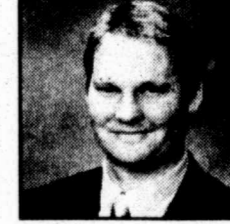
And she said she finds operating the sound system at church is one of her greatest joys.

"I love it and I love seeing people's reactions to the stage work, when they're raising their hands praising, laughing, praying, whatever. That's truly my reward," she said.

—Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

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Cornell Companies, Inc. is the third largest private prison management company in the United States. It was founded in 1960 to take advantage of a national trend toward prison privatization. Cornell contracts with state and federal agencies to house and provide development programs for a growing number of convicted felons and juvenile offenders. In 1994, Cornell incorporated and currently manages three nationwide divisions: Cornell Pre-Release (consisting of halfway houses and other pre-release programs), Cornell-Abraxas (juvenile detention facilities) and Cornell Corrections (the secure institutions divisions). In addition to the four in Big Spring, Cornell currently manages other secure institutions in California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Georgia and Rhode Island.

The Big Spring Correctional Center operation is a unique arrangement between the city of Big Spring, the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Cornell. Through an intergovernmental agreement, the City contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons to incarcerate federal offenders. The City, in turn, subcontracts with Cornell to manage and operate the facilities. All offenders housed at the Big Spring Correctional Center are illegal aliens, therefore, the Immigration and Naturalization Service also contracts with the City to conduct appropriate investigations and deportation proceedings at the facilities. Deportation hearings are conducted on site via video teleconferencing by the Executive Offices of Immigration Review in Dallas, Texas.

Johnny Rutherford, a former private prison management company based in Big Spring, first approached the City in 1988 to present the idea of renovating an abandoned hotel into a detention facility and contracting to house approximately 130 inmates. With the financial backing of entrepreneur Ed Davenport, the project was completed in 1989, and contracts were secured. The combined talents of Rutherford's financial management knowledge and Haugh's prison management experience, from his 25 year tenure with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, made the once new concept a resounding success that has set a template others strive to emulate. With success came expansion, and the operation has grown from one facility with 130 beds to a four facility complex with 2,600+ total beds. Cornell now has 120 employee positions in Big Spring.

Cornell acquired the Big Spring operation from MidTex in 1996. Rutherford left the business at that time, and Haugh served as Cornell's Vice President of Secure Institutions division until his retirement in 1999. Since this acquisition, Cornell has more than tripled its size. In 1996, Cornell contracted to operate 20 detention and pre-release facilities with a total bed capacity of 2,600+ beds. Cornell is currently employed in 13 states and the District of Columbia, with a

BSCC-Interstate Unit
432-263-8332

1801 West Interstate 20
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Established in June, 1989, the Interstate Unit is located at Interstate 20 and Highway 126. It provides 190 prisoner beds and is managed by approximately 75 employees.

BSCC-Flightline Unit
432-267-7911

2001 Rickabaugh Drive
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Established in February, 1995, the Flightline Unit is located on the west side of the McMahon Weinkle Air field near the main runway. It provides 194 prisoner beds and is managed by approximately 130 employees.

BSCC-Airpark Unit
432-263-8806

3700 Wright Avenue
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Established in February, 1991 the Airpark Unit is located near the former Webb AFB housing. It provides 524 prisoner beds and is managed by approximately 99 employees.

BSCC-Cedar Hill Unit
432-268-1227

3711 Wright Avenue
Big Spring, Texas 79720

Established in June, 1988, the Cedar Hill Unit is located near the former Webb AFB housing. It provides 832 prisoner beds and is managed by approximately 125 employees.

Since inception, the Big Spring Correctional Center operation has contributed positively to the local economy. Aside from the four facilities, Cornell leases other buildings from the City for warehouse operations, executive offices and a staff training center. In 2001, Cornell paid the City of Big Spring in excess of \$1,000,000 for contract maintenance and lease fees.

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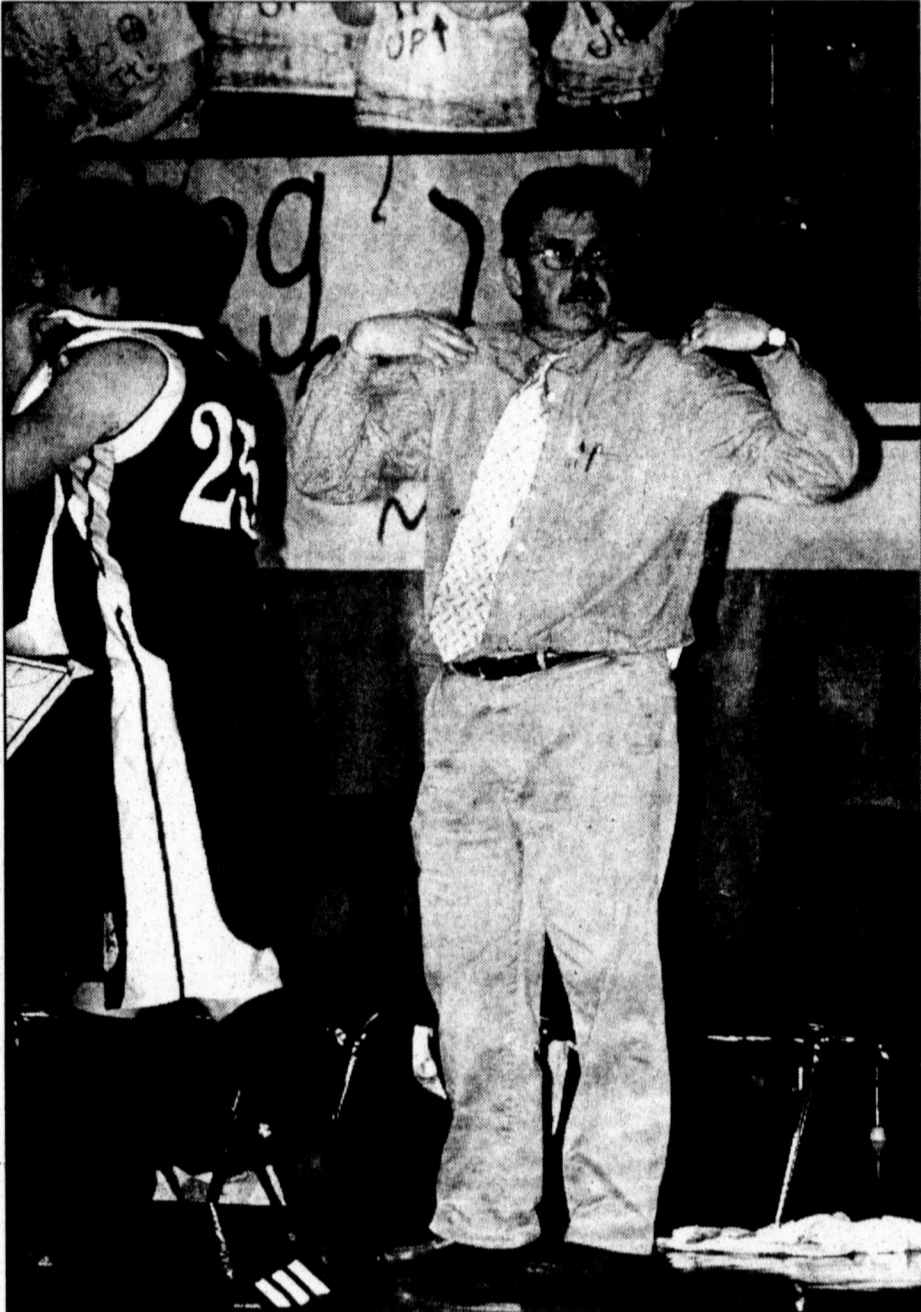
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Coach!

At 29 years and counting, Kim Nichols has never wanted to leave Coahoma



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma head basketball coach Kim Nichols calls for a timeout during the Bulldogs' Class 2A Area championship game with Crane this past season. Nichols is in his 29th season at Coahoma and has no plans to leave or retire.

In the world of coaching it is common for coaches on the rise to make rounds through different school systems until they get to where they want to go. Most get better opportunities that are too good to pass up. Some become athletic directors and some move from Class A to Class 2A to Class 3A and so forth.

However, Coahoma coach Kim Nichols had another idea when building his coaching resume. That idea was staying in one place for a long time and building solid programs at one school.

Nichols entered his 29th year at Coahoma at the beginning of the school year. He has been head coach of the varsity boy's basketball team for 21 years and head varsity boy's and girl's golf coach for 16 years.

Why Coahoma? According to Nichols, several factors have led to him remaining a Bulldog.

"It is a good school system for starters," said Nichols, who had two children graduate from Coahoma within the past 10 years. "And, every time I had the desire or felt the need to leave, I would have taken a pay cut and/or my wife was stuck without a job."

Felt the desire or need to leave? Not much of that for Nichols, who has only applied for three or four jobs in the last 25 years.

One of those jobs he applied for was in Andrews and even if he would have gotten the position he is not sure he would have taken it.

"My kids didn't want to leave and I wouldn't have gone if my wife didn't have a job," said Nichols, whose wife — Kathy — has been teaching at the elementary level at Coahoma for 29 years, too.

Nichols has two children. Lauren played basketball for UTPB for two years and is now working in Los Angeles. Blake is currently a student at UTPB and working in Midland part-time.

Besides head coaching basket-

ball and golf at the varsity level, Nichols is also an assistant to Robert Wood on the Coahoma football team and has been in charge of athletic injuries and insurance for the past 15 years.

He served as an assistant in the varsity basketball program during his first eight years at Coahoma and coached track at the junior-high and junior varsity levels.

He has three options heading into next year and knows that two of those options — leaving or retiring — are as far in the back of his mind as possible. Nichols has no immediate plans to retire or leave.

"If I leave I would have to work (with) someone I already know," added Nichols. "I am not ready to retire because I still like coaching, teaching, being around kids and winning."

Winning is definitely something Nichols and the community have gotten accustomed to over the years.

Nichols has won 20 or more games nine times in 21 years as head basketball coach and made the playoffs 11 times. His overall record at the school is 359-258 and has just seven losing seasons, including the first three seasons he took over as head coach.

His best teams record-wise came in back-to-back seasons in 1990-1992. In 1990-91, the Bulldogs went 26-9 and reached the area championship game and the 1991-92 Bulldogs — which lost in the area championship — went 25-8. This past year, he guided Coahoma to the area championship where the Bulldogs lost a close game to Crane. The team finished 21-10.

Nichols' 300th victory came in 2002 against arch rival Colorado City by a score of 55-47.

Nichols' golf teams have been district champions twice and qualified for the regional meet four times and the state meet once.

Three of his golfers have been named to the all-region team,

including Blake, who was named to the team in 1997 and 1999.

Nichols has been a part of several football playoff teams, as well, as Coahoma has reached the playoffs three out of the last six years.

"You play with what you have a lot of times," said Nichols, who teaches social studies, health, physical education and driver's education at Coahoma. "You win some you have no business winning and lose some you have no business losing."

Nichols plans on staying at Coahoma longer still, and doesn't worry about outside interferences sometimes trying to influence decisions.

"For the most part, the community has been real supportive of what I have done here," said Nichols. "I can't worry about what other people think. I know I will never do anything illegal or immoral."

Nichols said he tries to treat everyone fairly and run his teams with the same rules. He said the biggest complaints deal with playing time of certain students.

"Someone has to make that call and it has to be from me," said Nichols.

Nichols said he played all sports in high school and got his influence to teach from his mother and his love for basketball from his brother.

"We didn't have video games back then so all there was to do was play sports," said Nichols. "My brother Nick was 18 years older than me and him playing basketball at Rice really got me into basketball. And my mother teaching English influenced me into becoming an educator."

Nichols has 12 boys and six girls out for golf this season.

"We have a fairly young team and will need to practice and get better," said Nichols. "They have to play everyday and play through the weather, which can be hard at times."

—Troy Hyde, sports editor

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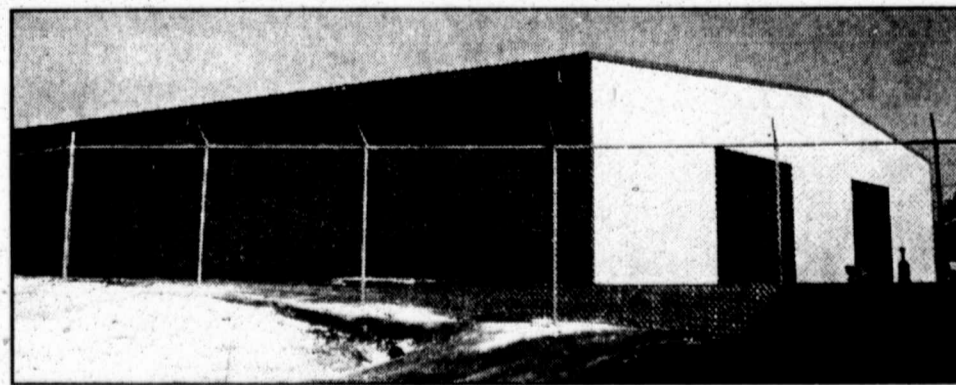
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Giving something back to her community

Brandy Stewart's life story goes much deeper than her experiences as the assistant to the direc-

tor at the Harold Davis Fitness Center on the campus of Howard College.

Brandy was diagnosed with cancer at age four and spent three months in the hospital in 1976 as she recovered from a brain tumor. Her grandmother passed away from breast cancer.

Today, her voluntary work for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life is a way to give back to the community — a community she has been a part of for 30 years.

Brandy has been a part of Relay For Life for the past nine years and currently serves as a chairperson on the door prize committee.

"It's a lot of work," said Brandy. "The job includes going around to local businesses and looking for door prize donations."

The Relay For Life is an annual two-day event benefiting cancer victims.

When Brandy isn't running around town looking for donations to help with the American

Cancer Society's yearly event, she spends time at work and with family.

Brandy has been the assistant to the director at the Harold Davis Fitness Center for nine years and has remained the one constant for many members.

Whether it's Relay for Life or her work at Howard College, Brandy Stewart always puts her heart into it.

She has worked through three fitness directors — Roy Green, Jerry Dudley and Cory Pack — and now works under the direction of Jason Sautter, who has taken over duties at the center on top of serving as the men's assistant

basketball coach at the college.

Brandy's duties at the college include supervising employees, taking care of corporate groups and dealing with paperwork. She has also dealt with plumbing issues, she added, with a smile.

"I have some specific duties and then I also get other responsibilities as the day goes along," said Stewart. "It just depends on the day. You never know what's going to happen around here."

Another duty or responsibility deals with the many members — including students, community members, employees of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and others — she encounters each day.

"I have developed some friendships along the way and that is a good part of the job," said Brandy.

She deals with an average of 50 regulars each day.

Brandy's current position at the fitness center was only part-time at

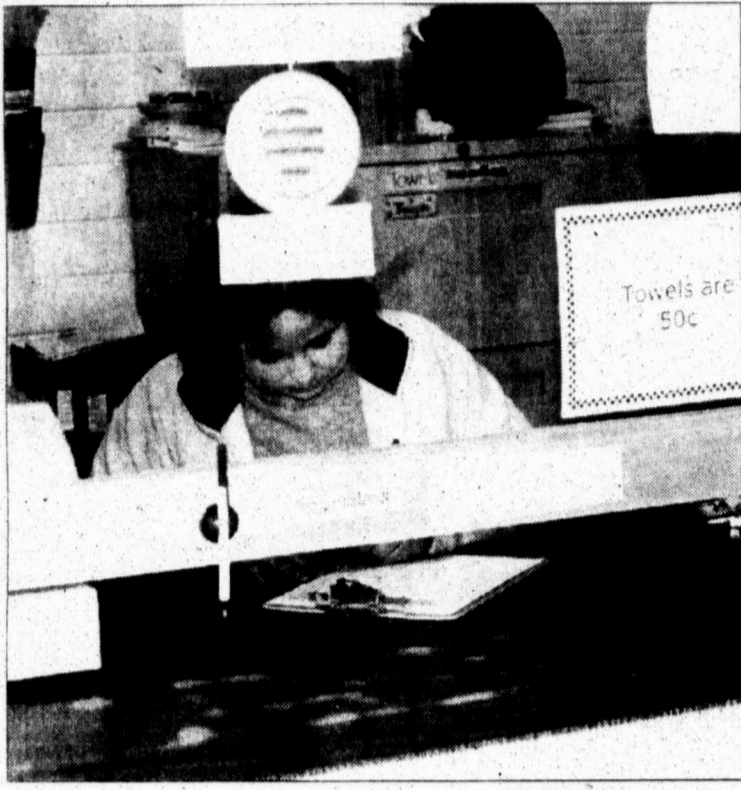
first.

"I made the proposal to the college to take care of other duties and it got approved, which made me full-time," said Brandy.

The positions have blossomed since then. Seven employees — all students — work under Stewart in helping her with the day-to-day activities. Three serve as part-time workers, one is a work study student and three others serve as "helpers."

Brandy enjoys spending time with family, going to the movies, working with arts and crafts and is also a Mary Kay senior consultant when she is not a work. Her family consists of a mother, father, four sisters, step brother, three brothers-in-law, two nieces and two nephews. Her youngest sister — Krista Gamble — is a member of the Howard College cheerleading team.

—Troy Hyde, sports editor



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College Fitness Center Assistant to the Director Brandy Stewart looks over the sign-in sheet during a typical weekday at the workout facility. Stewart was diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was four and is now recovered. She is heavily involved with the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life two-day event each year.

Time to relax

After 31 years of being an educator, Richard Light will play... for a while

After 31 years of keeping students on the straight and narrow, Richard Light has decided he's due some goof-off time.

Light, director of federal programs at the Big Spring Independent School District, is calling it a career after more than three decades as a teacher, coach, principal and administrator.

And although he admits he'll be rather nostalgic about his career after his retirement, he plans to enjoy himself first.

"I'm going to play and relax for about six weeks," Light said. "And play with my grandkids."

After that respite, however, he plans to do work as an educational consultant, with perhaps some additional work in the construction field.

Light began his educational career as a special education teacher in San Antonio in 1973. Two years later, he moved to Garden City, and has been in this area ever since.

He spent seven years with the Glasscock County school district, teaching, coaching and serving as high school/junior high principal, before leaving the field to work in the construction business.

His flirtation with the private sector lasted a year before he returned to education, beginning a 14-year stint at Forsan. There, he taught and coached for six years, before becoming principal at Elbow Elementary.

He joined the Big Spring school district eight years ago, serving first as director of special education before assuming his current duties.

Light's last day on the job will be June 15, and he said he's enjoyed almost every minute of his career.

"I've enjoyed working with everyone at all these locations," he said. "Education is a field filled with honorable and dedicated people. It's been a joy."

Having held so many positions, it's understandably difficult for him to pick a job that's pleased him the most.

"I just enjoy working

with people," Light said. "My gift is administration, I guess, because I've been in it so long (18 years), but I also loved coaching and teaching."

Few fields have experienced as much change as education, he said. One only has to look at the changing alphabet soup of standardized achievement tests required of students during the past 30 years — from TABS to TEAMS to TAAS to TAKS — and the increasing number of guidelines mandated on school systems by state and federal law to understand the shifting nature

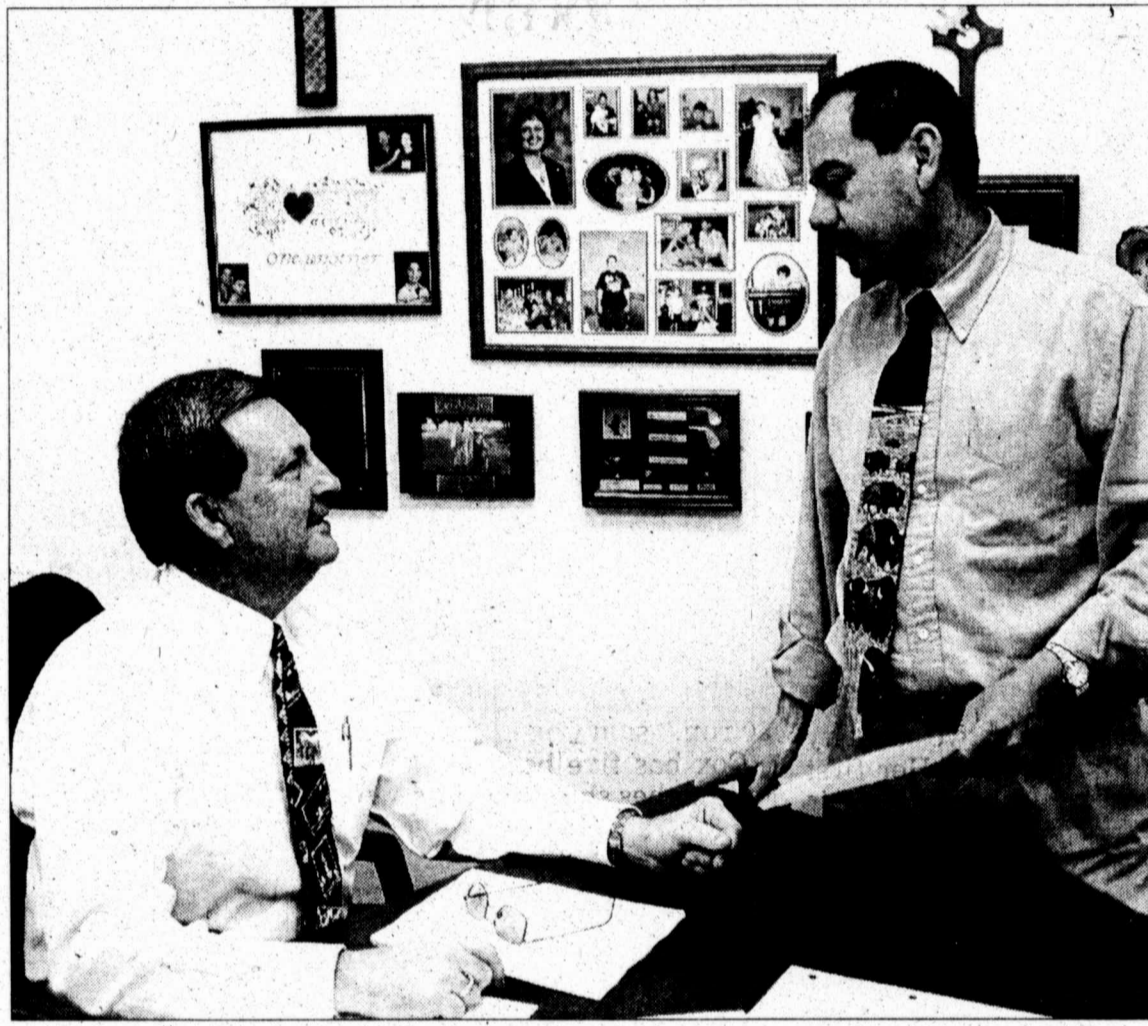
of the profession, he said. Still, it's been a fun ride, Light said.

"Education for me has been a calling, rather than an occupation," he said.

—Steve Reagan, staff writer

Richard Light, director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District, talks with Assistant Superintendent Rey Villarreal. Light is retiring in June after a 31-year career in education.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan



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Cox has been making quilts for years, but confesses she knows more of the pointer in life because she is doing it a class in the cr

"I did quilt the necessity of thing back to it is how I make a living," said Cox, who claims to love anything old.

Cox is not sure on the exact amount of quilts she has made, but would venture to guess around 200. Fifty of her total came in 1999 — the year Cox turned 50.

"That is when I really became known as a quilter and started it for a living. I hand quilted year and got from people. I had help shopping and year."

Today, she makes tom quilts to also makes quilts per year charity quilts for the Society out of

Depending on the fabric each one costs from \$150 to \$

"It all depends on what you want," she said. "I spend some, but it depends on what kind you want to

Cox grew up in Big Spring before moving to Missouri for then to Austin before working as an education teacher at Mary's Episcopal for 10 years as a homemaker some time.

Cox also has a booth at an several year Spring before down.

"I was too to do that one day so San Angelo out," said Cox. "I collected old interesting stories."

There is no why Cox quilts and spending a with her grand child pr something to

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A quilting she does go

Before 1999, Sheryl Cox didn't want to be considered a quilter. Now she welcomes that title with open arms and then some.

Cox has been officially making quilts for 40 years, but considered herself more of a needlepointer in the 1990s because she spent more time doing it and taught a class in the craft.

"I did quilts more for the necessity than anything back then, but now it is how I make a living," said Cox, who claims to love anything old.

Cox is not sure on the exact amount of quilts she has made, but would venture to guess around 200. Fifty of her total came in 1999 — the year Cox turned 50.

"That is when I really became known as a quilter and started doing it for a living," said Cox. "I hand quilted until that year and got lots of help from people, too."

"I had help with grocery shopping and dinner that year."

Today, she makes custom quilts to order. She also makes two charity quilts per year. Her first charity quilt for 2005 is for the Alzheimer's Society out of Dallas.

Depending on the size and the fabric of the quilt, each one costs anywhere from \$150 to \$5,000.

"It all depends on what you want," said Cox. "The time I spend on it matters some, but it depends more on what kind of fibers you want to use."

Cox grew up in Big Spring before going to Missouri for college and then to Austin. She worked as a librarian in Austin before returning to Big Spring in 1981. She worked as an art appreciation teacher at the St. Mary's Episcopal School for 10 years and was a homemaker for quite some time.

Cox also conducted a booth at an antique mall several years ago in Big Spring before it closed down.

"I was too busy quilting to do that anymore and one day some guy from San Angelo bought me out," said Cox. "He collected old coffee pots, was interesting and has lots of stories."

There is no real reason why Cox began to love quilts and quilting, but spending a lot of time with her grandparents as a child probably had something to do with it.

"I really have no idea," said Cox.

The personal side of quilting could have also played a role then and definitely does now.

"It is just a basic need to be able to cover your loved ones," said Cox. "It is heartwarming to know that when someone is sick they spend more time under my quilt than anywhere else."

"They often have legacies that no ones really knows about."

Another reason for her quilt-making can be attributed to having constant junk lying around the house, said Cox.

"I don't throw anything away and I am a junkie for anything old — not just fabric," said Cox. "It is just hard for me to throw things away."

Cox has so much fabric lying around the house that she is not ever worried about not being able to follow through on orders. She also has lots of ideas left in her artistic mind.

"I store fabric anywhere I can but it is pretty organized now after using a lot of it during the year of 50 run," said Cox.

Cox has five books full of sketches she still wants to do some day and said any quilter will tell you they have about 200 quilts left in them.

"I am going to quilt until the day I die," said Cox, whose house signifies "artist" upon entrance as it is filled with many quilts, paintings and other handcrafted items.

Cox has many friends that can be considered "hard-core" quilters, as well, and has many stories, too.

"One of my friends stores fabric in her oven and another one stores it in the trunk of her car," said Cox. "The one that keeps it in her oven must not cook much."

Cox — who says quilting is more diversified in various ethnic backgrounds now than ever before — even has a friend who stores her fabric in a casket designed just for her.

"They pull away the shelves as she uses up the fabric and one day she will get good use out of the casket," added Cox. "I didn't realize how big those things are though."

While continuing to make and sell quilts to order will still happen for a while, Cox hopes one day to make more for herself and not do so many custom orders.

Cox has done custom orders for customers in Australia and China and has many buyers in the Dallas and Austin areas. She said about 12 people in Big Spring take advantage of her quilt-making, including internationally famous artist Susan Bagwell.

Cox still does needlepoint today and enjoys golfing, hiking, reading and collecting Roseville, which is old American art pottery.

"I told you I like anything old," said Cox. Apparently so.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Sheryl Cox gets all wrapped up in several of her homemade quilts. Cox makes a living designing and making quilts and has put together around 200 total. Her quilts, which are all done through custom orders, can be purchased at prices ranging from \$150 to \$5,000.

"It is heartwarming to know that when someone is sick they spend more time under my quilt than anywhere else."

— Troy Hyde, sports editor

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Patron saint of widows and elderly

It's hard to catch local resident Ed Jenkins when he's not on a lawn mower or his Ford tractor cutting weeds somewhere in Howard County. And while lawn work has become as much of a hobby as a pastime for him, it's how he deals with his "customers" that might surprise you.

"Yes ma'am, I'll be there tomorrow and take care of it," he tells a woman he refers to as one of his favorite "widow ladies" moments before an interview with the *Big Spring Herald*. "Don't you worry about it. You can pay me when you want."

While the one-sided phone conversation leaves a lot to the imagination, it certainly raises one important question: Exactly what kind of "business man" is Jenkins?

"She's on a fixed income, so it's nearly impossible for her to pay someone to cut her yard," said Jenkins.

And that's where he comes in. Described by one of his customers as



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Retirement doesn't slow down Ed Jenkins, as he turns a yard of weeds into a thing of beauty with his riding lawn mower.

the patron saint of widows and the elderly, Jenkins will be the first one to tell you he does

what he does for a better reason than just getting paid. "They need help," said

east side of Big Spring and I go over and mow her grass when it needs it. She doesn't even know

Jenkins. "I have a lot of empathy for people who are on a fixed income and don't have a whole lot. I know how tough it can be. It's tough to live on a fixed income. The yard needs mowing and your trim needs painting — flower beds need cleaning — and there's no one to do it for them anymore. He's gone. So when they call me, I go take care of it for them. Some of them pay me very well, and some of them are just special cases. It depends on the situation.

I'm doing it." Jenkins said he started doing lawns in 2000, and the idea just sort of snowballed from there.

"I got one yard in the summer of 2000, and then another and another," he added. "Pretty soon I found myself doing trees and trimming hedges. I like to do it."

In his mid-60s himself, Jenkins said he's seen how tough everyday life can be on the elderly.

"Well, I'm just about there," said Jenkins with a laugh. "It's very important because someone has to help them. When the city gives them letters telling them they have high weeds in their alley or their yard needs mowing, in this time and day they just give them citations. I've done lots of lawns and alleys for people that have been written up for that sort of thing. Where are they supposed to turn? They can't afford a ticket, but they also can't afford to have someone to fix the problem. It's tough for these elderly people."

The retired life is anything but Hawaiian shirts and drinks with umbrellas for Jenkins, but according to the 21-year retired Air Force Tech Sgt., it's all about remembering our own mothers and fathers.

"I'm only able to do this because I'm retired myself," said Jenkins. "I'm very fortunate in that respect. I've retired several times, from the U.S. Air Force, the VA Medical Center and Westinghouse Electric. I'm also a disabled veteran, so I feel like it's important to give something back."

"I wish more people would try to give back to their communities. Just give back a little to our mothers and fathers. I have one customer whose husband isn't able to get around and do these sort of things, and it hurts me to see all she has to do to take care of him. It's hard."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer

Christina Segundo: Sharing her faith with others

Christina Segundo grew up in a Christian home as the daughter of two ministers, but a teenage rebellion took her in the wrong direction. Soon she had become the victim of domestic violence at the hands of a boyfriend.

It wasn't long before Segundo got back on the right path, dedicating her life to God at age 16 and helping her parents in their church. Still, marrying a minister and becoming one herself was not in her original plans.

"My parents were a very big example," she said. "I saw the life they lived,

and they served God. Way down deep inside, I knew God had something for me to do."

It was a great-grandmother who first told Segundo as a young girl, "You will do something for God." A musician and singer, Segundo already used those talents in the church, and she became a part of the youth group.

Nowadays, though, Segundo leads an entire congregation of 250 people with her husband, Samuel Segundo. The two are pastors of Family Faith Victory Center, a non-denominational

church that has grown from nine members to its present size in less than five years.

"When you focus on people, and give them your love and attention," Mrs. Segundo said, "they are naturally going to share it with others as well."

That, the Segundos said is the key to a thriving church. They don't focus on numbers, they said, but on people.

Mrs. Segundo tends to focus her energy on the women of the church, for whom she has a powerful message: True beauty and

true peace come from inside.

"We try to find our beauty on the outside," she said. "We aren't the size we want to be. Our hair is too short, too long, too curly. Women are stressed out and unfulfilled. They end up living a very unhappy life."

Instead, Mrs. Segundo said, women should focus on the word of God, which says all are created in His image.

"Focus on becoming

who God created you to be," she said.

And for women who are living with abuse and violence in their homes and lives right now, this survivor has another message: God does not want that for you.

"Seek God and get out of that relationship," she said.

In her own life, and with her struggles, Mrs. Segundo said she has learned, "God's love covers and reaches to the

very bottom." It made her proud, she added, when her husband described her as "A tragedy turned into a triumph," and "a victim who came out to be a victor."

"By the grace of God, I came out of that (tragedy)," she said. "I decided to get serious about my relationship with God."

—Debbie L. Jensen, contributing writer



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen
Christina Segundo and her husband Samuel are ministers at Family Faith Victory Center, a non-denominational church that has grown from nine members to 250 in less than five years.



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Left To Right: Hollis, Janet, Shannon, Tammy, Yolanda, Johnny, Kathy and Martha.

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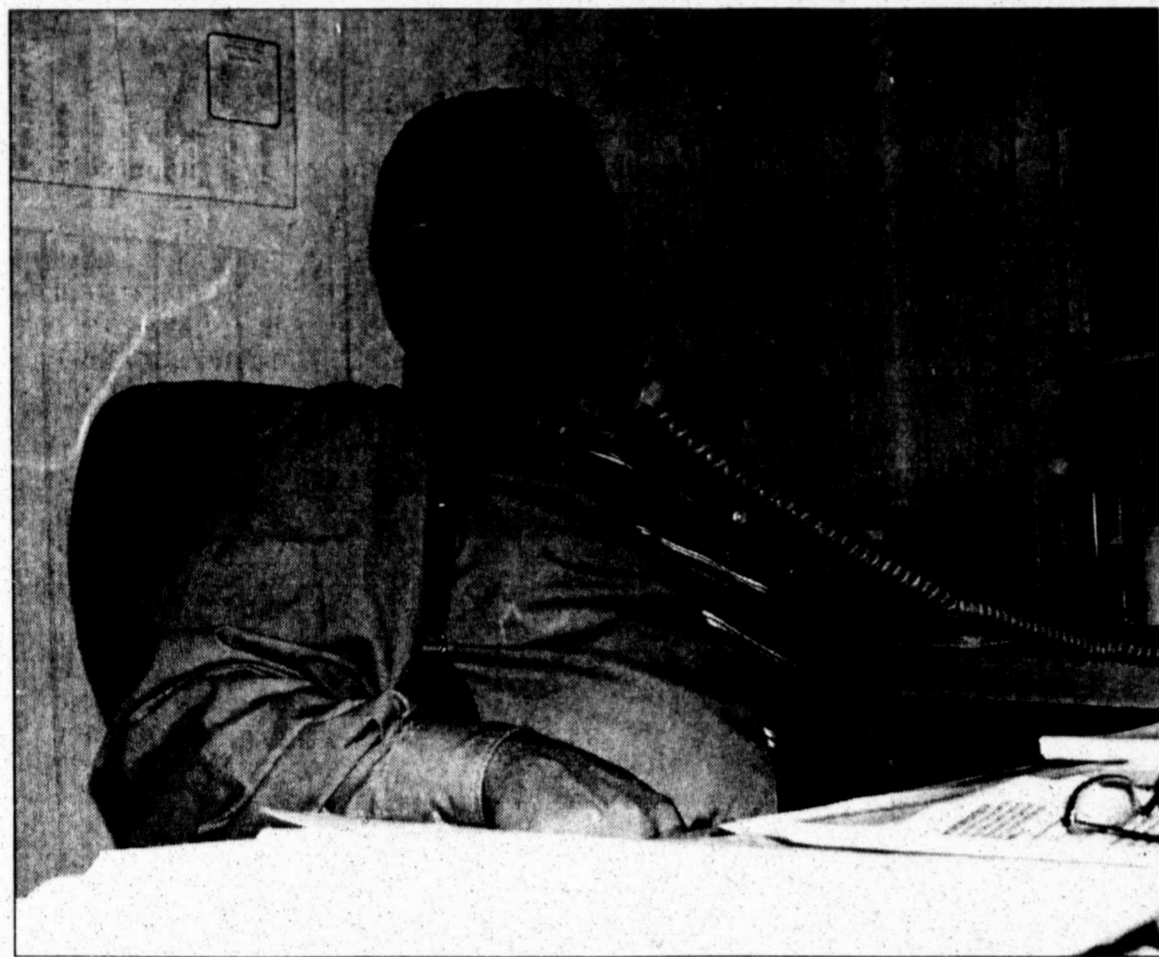
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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
While Hollywood may portray the rough and tumble life of police detectives, BSPD Det. Jim Rider shows where most real-life detectives spend a great deal of their time — on the phone.

Man of many hats

Police investigator hopes to make a difference in other people's lives

Balancing a home life with a career is hard enough these days, but imagine what it must be like for a police detective.

And with all of the different "hats" a police detective is expected to wear, make that person the president of the Homicide Investigators of Texas.

Of course, Jim Rider makes it look easy.

With more years on the Big Spring Police Department than anyone wants to count, Rider has been privy to some of the most uplifting moments in the city's history, and some of the toughest to deal with and explain.

Having been recently named the president of HIT, Rider is painfully modest about the appointment, constantly giving praise to otherwise involved in the organization.

"We're a non-profit organization that deals with the issues and laws that pertain to homicide investigations," said Rider. "We've had speakers from all over. People that have worked on the Columbine shootings, the Fort Worth Baptist Church shootings and even the dragging death in Jasper."

"We've had some really great speakers. Mainly the conference deals with the problems that arise in high-profile murder cases and helps to educate the homicide detective on what not to do, and what to do in certain types of investigations."

Rider said he became involved with HIT about 10 years ago, while he and other investigators were involved in a high-profile

murder case.

"Back in 1995, when me and several other officers were working the Troy Hogue murder case, there were some topic speakers in Midland on capital murder issues we were dealing with at the time," said Rider. "One of them asked me to go to the conference, and that's how it began."

"In 1997 I made a presentation at the conference about a train-rider serial killer we working on in this area, and in 1998 they came to me and asked if I would be willing to take over the historian position, so I did."

Two years ago, Rider moved into the position of first vice president of HIT, which eventually led him to his current position.

"We have an annual conference and that's where we get the revenue to put these conferences on and pay the speakers," said Rider. "There are a lot of responsibilities involved in making sure it gets up and running. For instance, I'll be in charge of getting the speakers for the conference, which will be held in Corpus Christi next year."

"As far as taking away from my everyday duties here at the police department, that won't happen. It's like being on any other public board."

Rider said it can be difficult to balance it all at times, but in the end it all works out.

"It can get tough at times," said Rider. "A lot of time we'll have court scheduled during the conference, so I have to take care of my duties for the

department and the people of Big Spring first. And then, if there's enough time, I go. There have been a few times when I've had to miss a few days."

While his titles may have changed over the years, both with the BSPD and HIT, Rider said one thing hasn't changed since he became a police officer: The reason for what he does.

"The possibility of having an effect on someone's life or helping someone that's been a victim," said Rider. "In some cases it's for closure for the families — trying to make a difference in some of those type of cases. We have to make sure the bad guys go to jail."

"Most people who know me know that I'm very fond of children. I have five of my own, and that's what keeps me sane," he said with a laugh. "Being a good father figure to the children is important to me. Trying to help the younger victims."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer

Building bridges between people is Tony Cruz's goal

Growing up, Tony Cruz wanted to be a coach. In a way, that's what he's become after 10 years working with the elderly.

As activities director at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Cruz "coaches" residents back to good health both physically and mentally, stimulating their minds and bodies through a busy and varied schedule.

Besides the very popular bingo games, Cruz also arranges arts and crafts, pool games and various types of physical exercises. Adding to his challenge is that, unlike at most nursing homes, 90 percent of the residents at the VA are men.

"The men enjoy working with their hands. For example, right now we are working on birdhouses, and that's something very popular with them," Cruz said. He tailors activities to the skills and hobbies of his residents, recently adding leather-working at the request of a new arrival who enjoyed that craft.

"We want to stimulate them so they won't have a

decline," Cruz said. "When a resident arrives, it is important to get them involved in something right away so they don't go into a deeper depression."

For the women who do reside at the home, Cruz offers a special women's group, which takes part in activities just for them. And co-ed activities are on the schedule as well. A team of eight attends a regional Senior Olympics event — in Midland this year — competing with their peers in a variety of physical challenges.

"We're gearing up for that right now," Cruz said.

The activities director said he learns something new every day from the residents.

"They have so much to offer," Cruz said. "They have many talents, and they have such wonderful stories. I have heard so many stories since I've been here."

To build a bridge between the residents and the community, Cruz said he wants to start an "adopt a grandparent"

type of program. Families would visit and participate in activities with a resident of their choice, and could even accompany him on outings.

To bring children the elderly together, the home invites schools and day cares to come by for activities. And on March 25, all area children are invited to the nursing home's giant Easter egg hunt at 2 p.m.

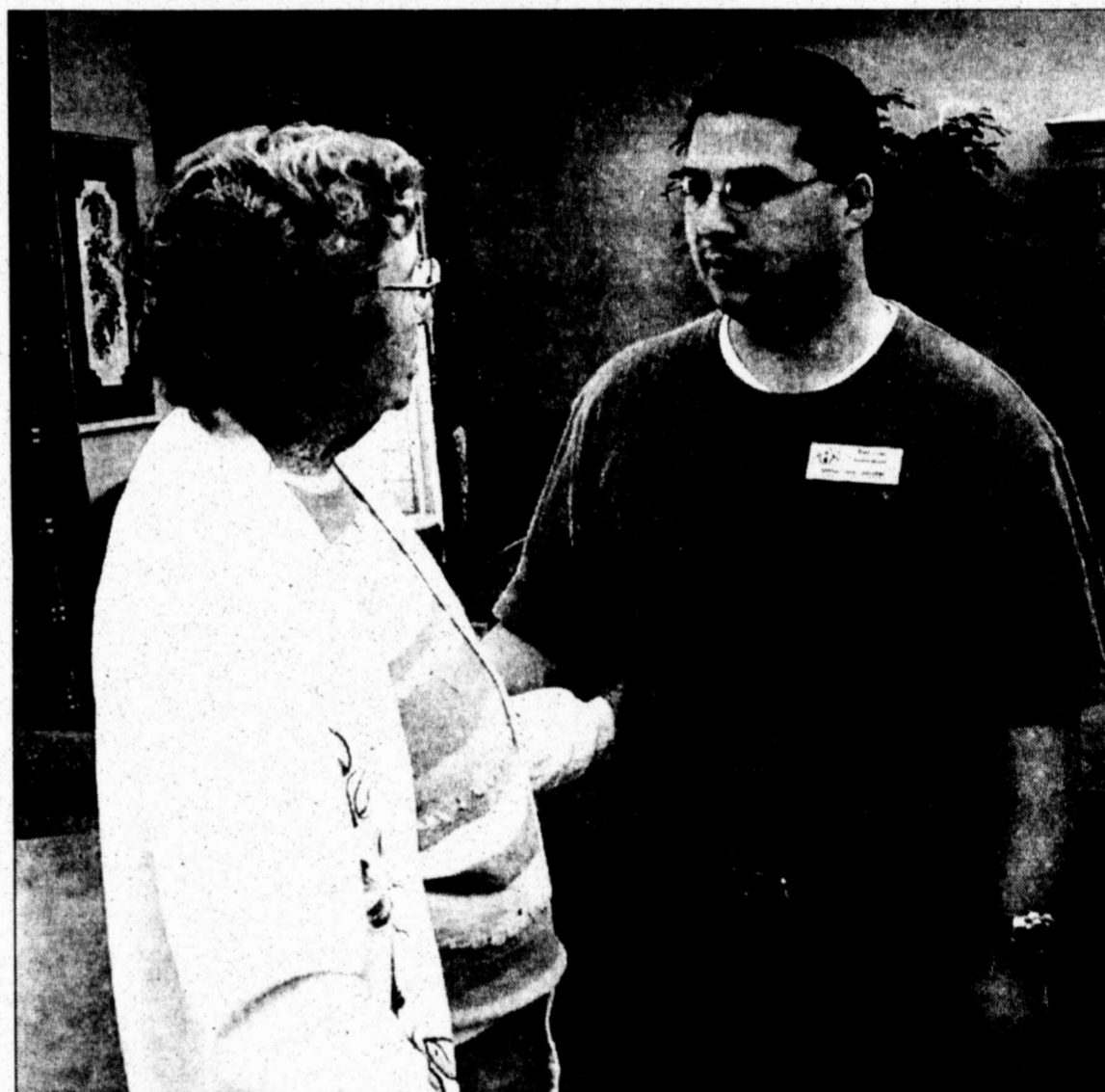
Each and every activity is special to Cruz, who said he has a simple goal.

"If I can make one person smile every day, I figure I've done something," he said.

While he currently lives in Andrews with his wife and children, the family is looking for a house in Big Spring. After the move, Cruz said he could get back to another great love in his life — coaching youth sports.

"I wouldn't change anything about my life," Cruz said. "I love my job. I love the residents. They keep me going."

—Debbie L. Jensen, contributing writer



HERALD photo/Debbie L. Jensen
Tony Cruz, right, activities director at the Texas State Veterans Home, visits with Jean Case, a resident of the home.

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Scott Emerson does his own thing

Electrifying energy booms from auctioneer

Electrifying energy booms from auctioneer and local entrepreneur Scott Emerson each Thursday night as he shouts, "Do I hear \$20? \$20? Anyone bid \$20?"

Born in Big Spring in June of 1959, Emerson graduated from Big Spring High School in 1977 and attended Howard College for two years, finishing one college hour shy of completing an associate's degree in fire science.

"I was a fireman for nine years, from 1989 until 1998, and I loved being a fireman. But the ambulance part, that was tough. A fireman is always a hero, even if he only saves the pavement, he's still a hero. But the inevitability of the ambulance calls — that was tough. That's when you see people in the worst shape of their lives," Emerson said.

His diverse, local business interests demonstrate Emerson is a man determined to remain a hero, especially in the eyes of his wife of 19 years, Lisa, and his sons, Tony, 17, Alex, 14, and Nicholas, 10.

"One of our businesses, Slant E Vending, is an acronym of our names. We were using TANSU on Cross Roads, for e-mail and I took a look at it and thought there must be something else, and it became Slant. I have to take credit for that one," Emerson said.

Juggling a business telephone in one hand and his cell phone in another, Emerson brings multitasking to new levels as he fields questions about a collection of arrow heads from a woman in New Mexico while grilling his wife for the exact ages of his children on the cell phone.

"This really is my life, a typical day, answering phones, answering questions, being available to do whatever is needed," he said.

Emerson owns Spring City Auction, which he

purchased from Robert Pruitt's widow, Leta, about a year and a half ago. But he's been in the auction business for more than 10 years, as a volunteer.

"Robert Pruitt was a master who knew what a collection was worth and also knew two or three people who would be interested in buying it. I came to

Robert about 10 years ago and volunteered, just on Thursday nights. I thought I knew what it was all about in those years, but this is a lot tougher than I ever thought it would be," he said.

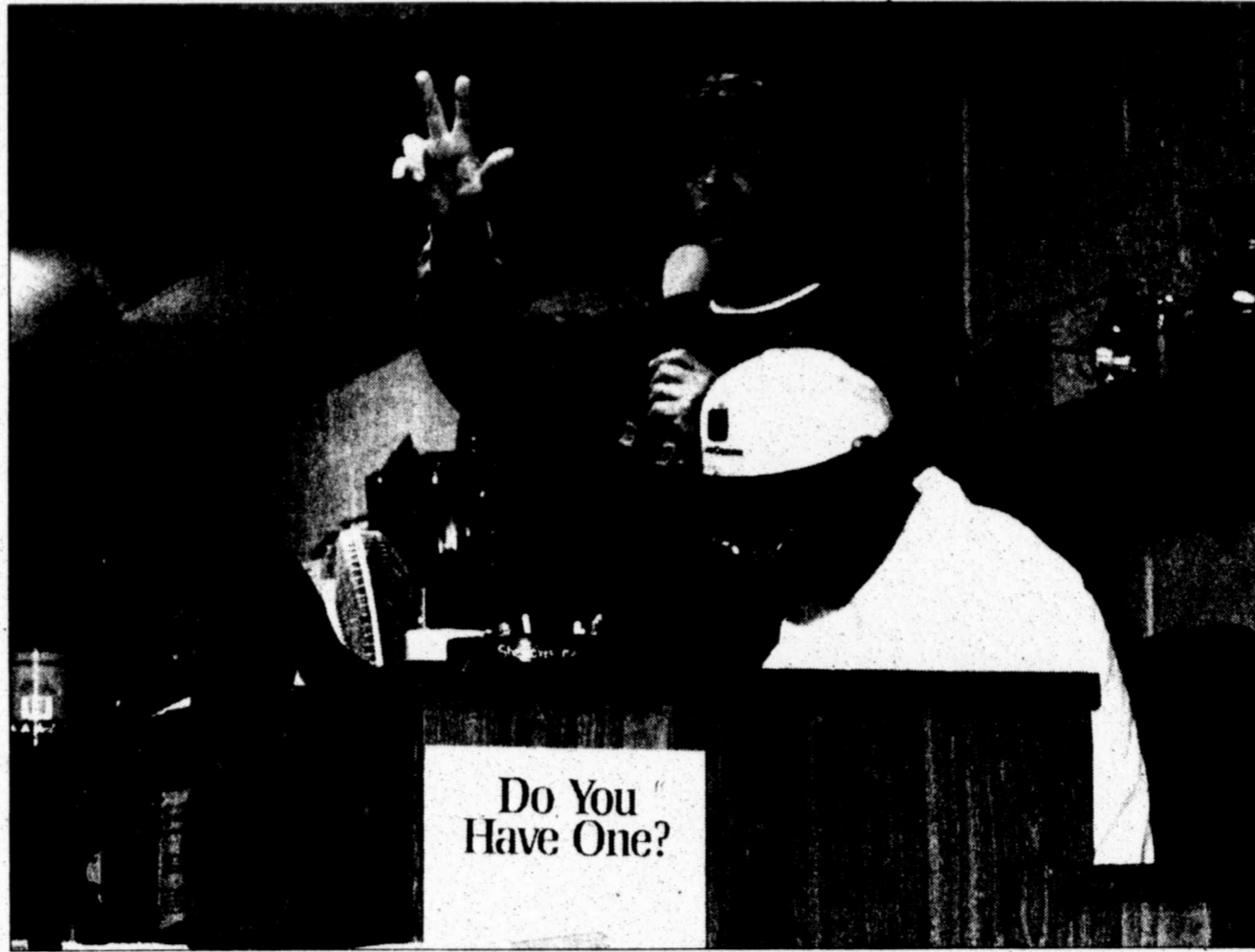
But Emerson is not just a licensed auctioneer, which requires 80 hours of study to receive through the state of Texas. He is also owner of the Gold Rush Tobacco Shop, and has owned several other enterprises in his 45 years, including an ice cream parlor, vending and video machines and gumball machines.

"What really led me to go into business for myself was I didn't like the way I saw others doing business. Like the ice cream parlor — I took the family out for ice cream once and was charged \$2.25 a scoop. I thought that was too much.

"My philosophy is I don't want anyone to be able to say they were done wrong by Scott Emerson in any way. I strive for customer satisfaction. My mom was always my moral guidepost. I knew if it was something I couldn't tell her, then I shouldn't be doing it," he said.

His mother, Lucille Emerson, died last fall. Emerson recalls that her help brought him success in his first job, as a paper carrier for the *Big Spring Herald* when he was 11.

"She would help me wake up for those early Sunday mornings. When I started my paper route, I had four people who were yearly subscribers. When



"Do I hear \$2?" quips auctioneer Scott Emerson, owner of Spring City Auction. The auction house operates every Thursday beginning at 7 p.m. with viewing of items that day.

I quit carrying the paper I knew I had done something right, because I only had two people who weren't buying yearly," he said.

He said those earnings helped launch him into other business interests when he bought a gumball machine and placed it at the bus station downtown.

He also bought one of the first pinball-type machines with those earnings, a shooting gallery machine that allowed a player to receive 12 steel balls for the high price of 10 cents.

"I got that idea out of Mad Magazine. It had an ad in the back and I sent off and bought one. After that one paid for itself, I bought another one. That was my first idea that I could make money even while I was asleep and that has been my whole life duplicated over and over again," he said.

His entrepreneurial spirit has sent him through every facet of multilevel marketing, he said, some that proved lucrative while others fell flat.

"I've learned if it sounds too good to be true it usually is. I've fallen for a bunch of (scams)," he said.

While the gumball and pinball machines earned income, Emerson went to work for his father as a car salesman and earned money selling his high school classmates cars.

"I would buy these old trade-ins and sell them to

my classmates on time. They got a car and I had an income. My older brother really instilled in me to work for myself. I say there are two kinds of jobs — where you can work for an employer and make him three times what he's paying you or you can work for others making good money doing those things they don't want to do," he said.

Emerson decided he didn't want to do either, so he remains in business for himself, employing between 15 and 20 others, full- and part-time.

"The bad part of owning your own business is that everybody gets paid before you do. There have been many, many weeks when my employees all make more money than I do," he said.

As an auctioneer, Emerson works long hours and seems to thrive in the hustle and bustle of the auction world. He may spend a morning going over the books and tallying tax payment accounts or he may field telephone calls from prospective clients or he may visit with a family to

discuss an estate auction.

The auction house has contracts with several local entities, including the Big Spring Independent School District, Howard College, the city of Big Spring, Moore Development, Midland College, Midland Independent School District and many others, he said.

And while the auction business reaches out to people in the West Texas area and New Mexico, his tobacco store on Third Street has a reputation that reaches to New York.

He tells of a man from New York visiting Big Spring who had heard of his tobacco shop slogan, "if you want to kill yourself smoking, why walk in when you can drive through."

"I started those electronic signs and put up the names of people who had written me hot checks," he said.

He is also involved in several charity auctions each year and participates in the Downtown Revitalization Association.

"We do at least six char-

ity auctions each year, the Hangar 25 cake auction, an auction for the Humane Society, the Salvation Army Doll Auction, the American Heart Association, Relay For Life and St. Jude's Children Auction. Also, an auction for the Circle Six Baptist Camp," he said.

The most unusual auction he has conducted was a Memory Auction for the American Heart Association, named Paddles Up.

"We auctioned people's memories, honoring their loved one who had passed away. We would start with \$100 and take down the numbers of those who raised their hands. Then we'd go on to \$500. We auctioned one for \$1,500," he said.

Emerson also donates items to a local teen-age Christian outreach program and he works with Bikes for Tykes. He helped establish the Robert Pruitt Memorial Christmas Fund with Leta Pruitt and donated more than \$1,200 cash for 120 bicycles.

He recognizes he is in a minority of business owners, as less than 20 percent actually get their doors open and in five years just 1 to 2 percent of those are still in business.

"My favorite thing about owning my own business is that I have the final say and my least favorite thing about owning my own business is that I have the final say. It all falls on my shoulders. If it all goes broke, it all falls on me," he said.

— Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

"My favorite thing about owning my own business is that I have the final say and my least favorite thing about owning my own business is that I have the final say. It all falls on my shoulders."

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Where Big Spring Shops

Father and son rock across Texas

Turn down that racket! That's not music, that's noise! If it's too loud, then you're too old!

This may sound like the normal exchange between a father and son when it comes to the generational gap in music, but there's one place you'll probably never hear these things, and that's in the Boiles household.

Rick Boiles and his son, Dominick, not only share the same taste in music, they share the same stage, part of the Big Spring alternative metal band Rustic Circle.

Rick, who serves as the band's vocalist, said it's an amazing feeling to be able to share something as intense as a musical performance with his son, who plays lead guitar.

"The fact that we even share the same taste in music is amazing to me," said Boiles. "I love the fact we have so many things we share together. Music is one of the primary things. To be able to share a stage with him, or just be able to share ideas with him is just the greatest feeling in the world."

"A lot of parents and children don't see eye to eye on a lot of things nowadays, but we manage to see eye to eye on a lot of things. I think it's been a really good thing for us to do this together because it's kept us very close."

Dominick said it's all about sharing the good and bad times with his father.

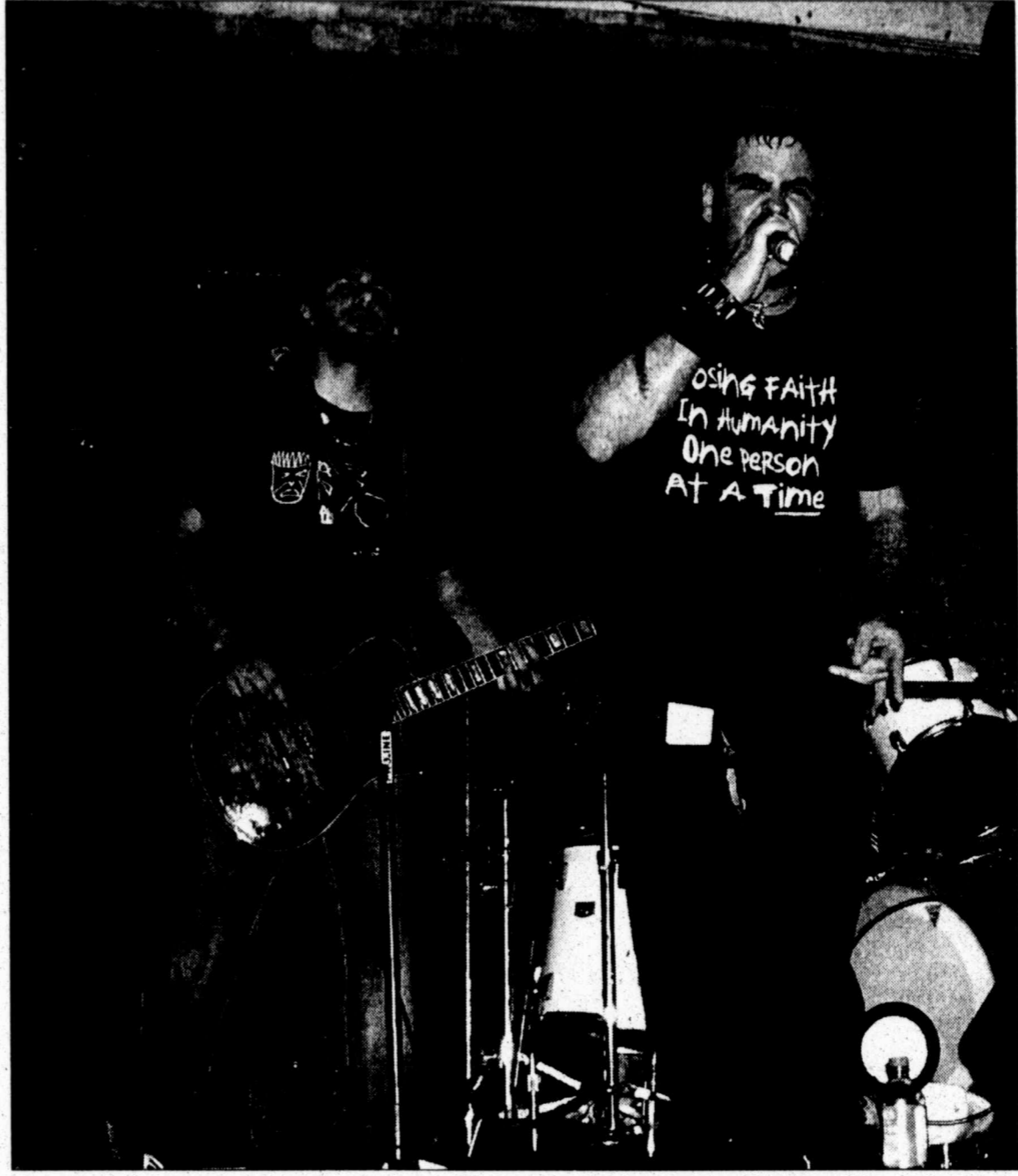
"Some kids play football and their parents get to watch them play. They get to share that with them," said Dominick. "I get to share this with my dad. I think it's awesome. It's pretty rare."

"I know if I have a bad show, or we have a bad show, together, I know he'll understand. I know that he knows how that feels. We have the same highs and the same lows, night after night, being in this band together. It makes it easier to communicate with him about it."

Rick said his foray into the music world began at a rather young age, beginning with a close encounter with a scaly creature that would eventually change the way he felt about music.

"I've been involved in music since I was young. I got bitten by a rattlesnake one day and my mother bought me a book on how to learn guitar to sort of pass the time. That's how I learned to play guitar — from a book, and a little blue record," said Boiles with a laugh.

"From there I started trying to write songs, and sang in church for a long time. I was in a country band for a while, but my heart was always in alter-



Rustic Circle vocalist Rick Boiles, right, performs for the crowd at July Alley in Deep Ellum, Dallas, as his son, Dominick, backs him up on vocals and plays lead guitar. The Boiles are one of the few alternative metal bands in the state that feature a father and son duo.

native metal and rock, so I finally found a group of guys that I can play some rock and roll with. I showed my son a few chords, and the next thing I know he was playing everything he heard. And he was doing it better

than anyone." While the band has enjoyed success for a number of years, Dominick said he never really thought of music as a career until Rustic Circle came along. "Getting together with

the guys in the band was really good for me," said Dominick. "It was kind of like joining a brotherhood. The fact that everyone in the band shares the same love for music that I have has really been good. I never really

saw myself getting this serious about music before the band. In fact, right before we started the band, I was thinking about quitting playing the guitar. I was getting tired of it, and I never really thought it could be career or anything."

While most parents and children might be shaking their heads in disbelief at this point, Rick said the musical relationship he has with his son has been incredibly uncomplicated.

"I really can't say that it's ever made it tough or complicated. If anything, it's made it that much more fun," said Boiles. "I can't explain what it's like to watch him progress as a musician. He's a thousand times better of a guitarist than I ever could have wished to be. He has a passion for it, and because he has that passion, I'll do everything I can to support it. I want him to be happy, and he's happy when he's on stage. He's happy when he's writing — when he's playing the guitar. It's sort of our way to get away from everything else."

And while these two alternative metal acolytes may be on the cutting edge of today's music, there's always a skeleton lurking — probably wearing platform shoes and wild face paint.

"I guess we can leave out those Kiss years," said Dominick with a laugh. "Got to love Kiss."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer

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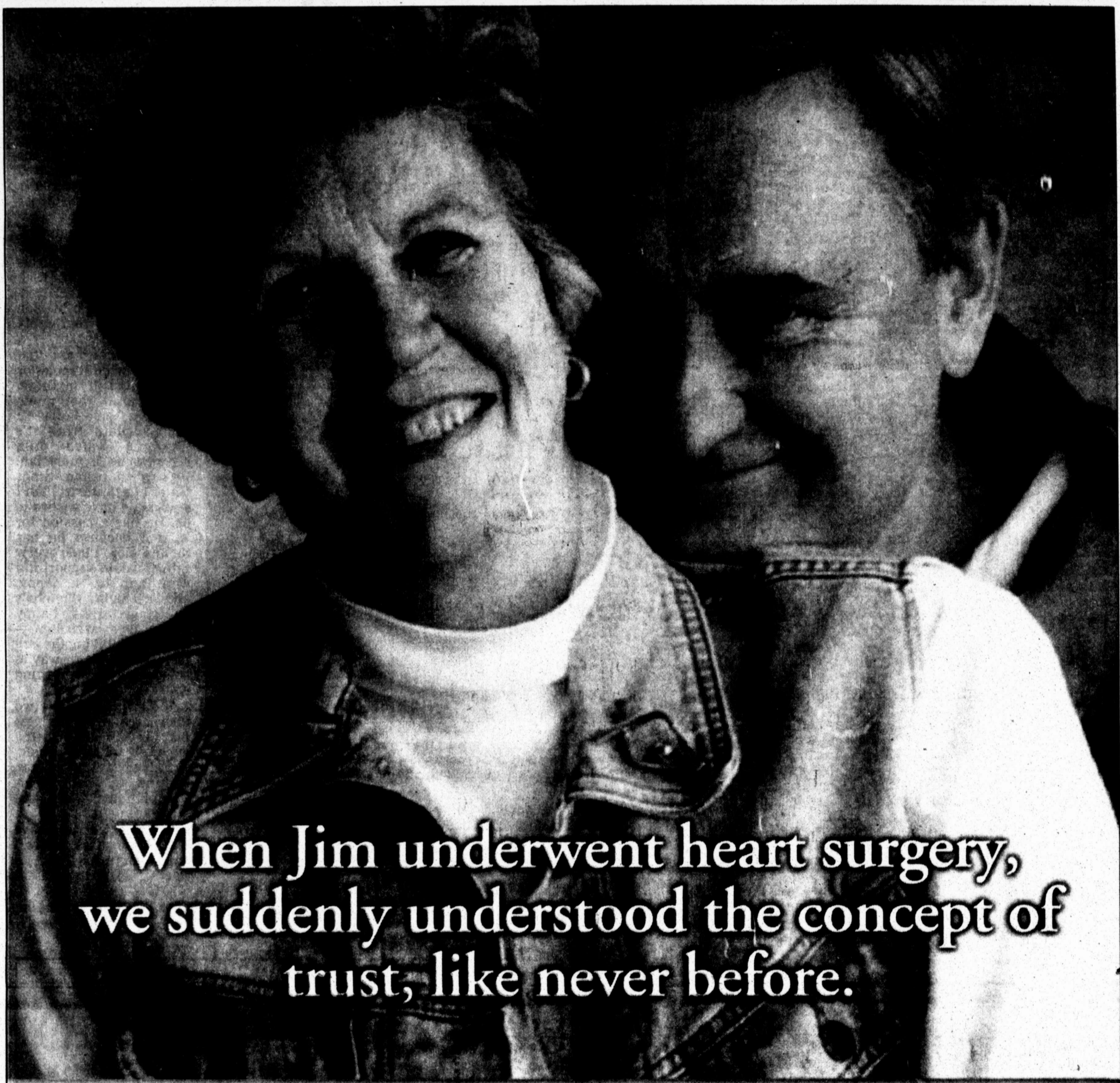
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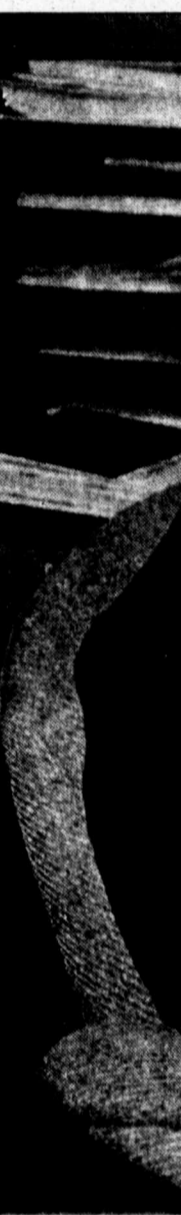
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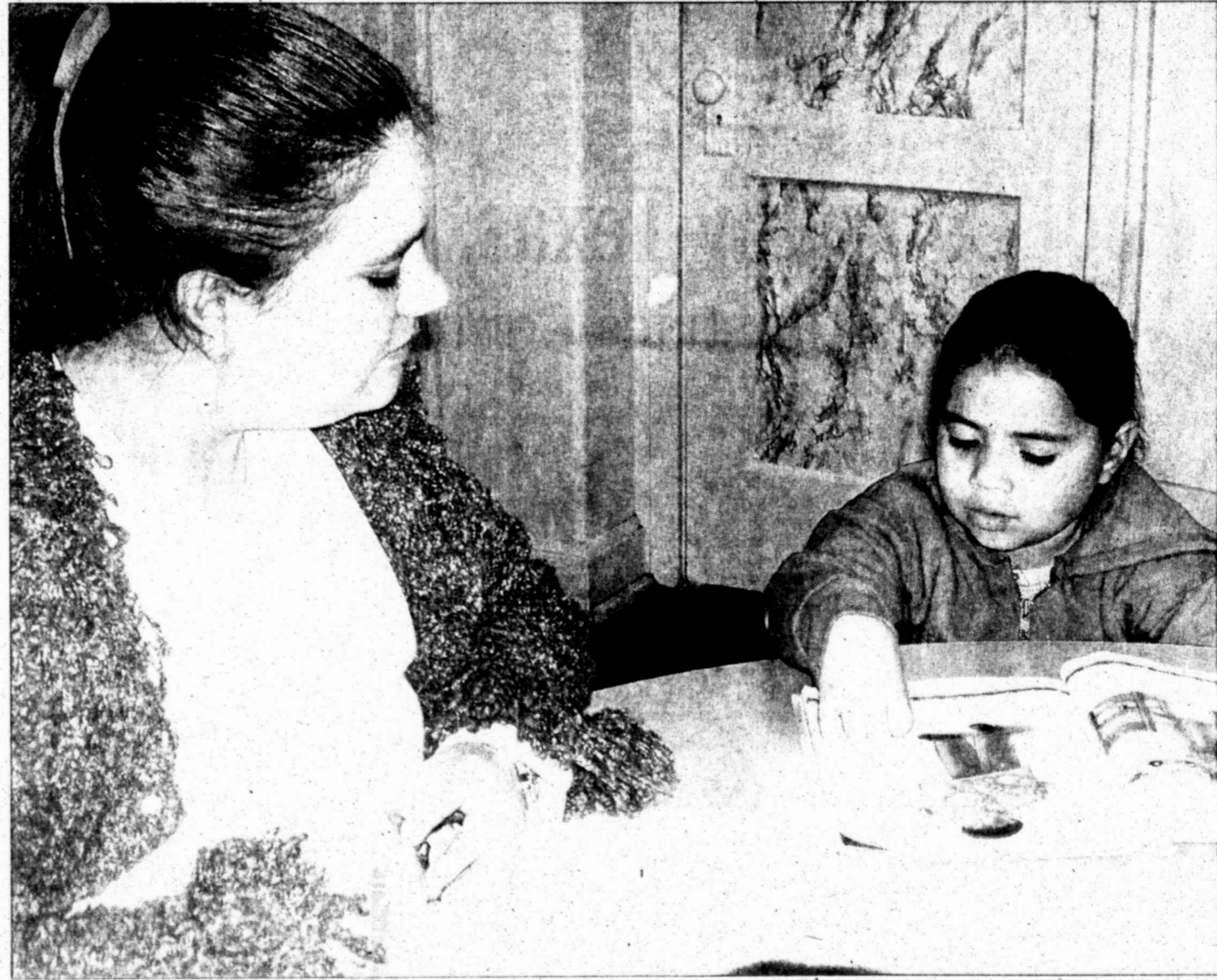
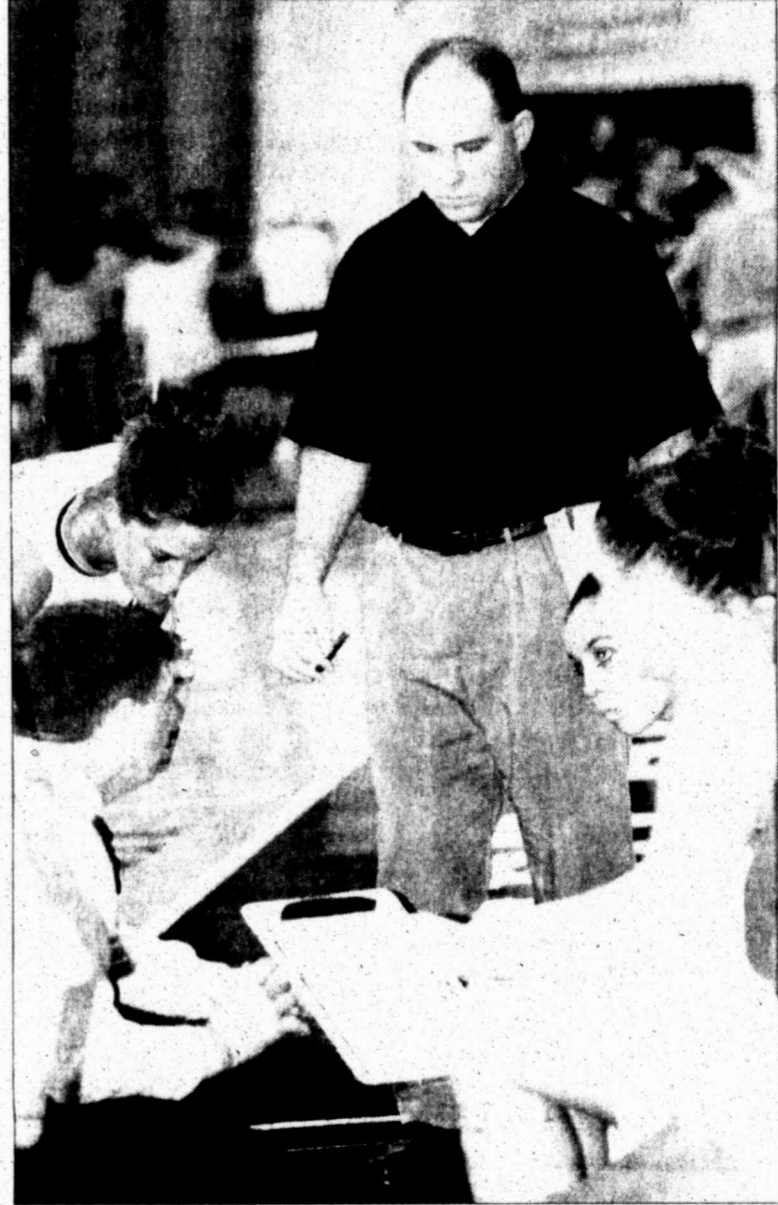
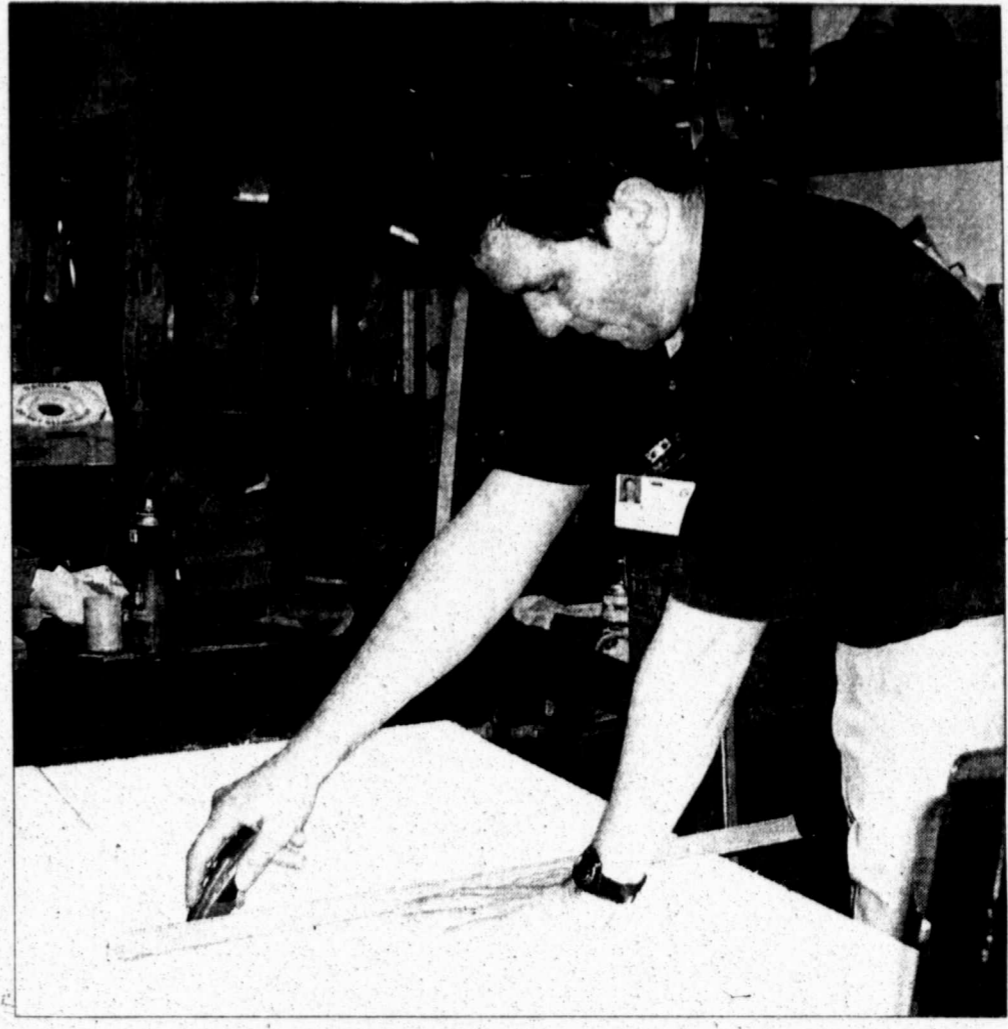
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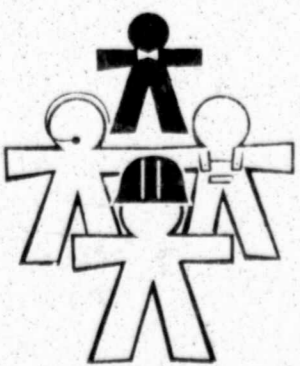


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GOOD NEWS



Yours, Mine and Ours

SECTION G

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald
Sunday, March 27, 2005

Bitten

by the mechanic bug

Early in life, Curtis Bruns loved to tinker with things

Being a good neighbor means a lot of different things to people, but for one Big Spring mechanic it means treating people like he would want to be treated.

Curtis Bruns, owner of The Auto Center at 202 Young, seemed surprised he was nominated as a *Big Spring Herald* "Good Neighbor," but it only takes one trip through his garage to understand why so many of his customers are impressed with the level and quickness of his mechanical services.

"That's just my philosophy," said Bruns with a laugh. "I try to get it done. I know people don't like being without their car. I even have people that say they aren't in a hurry, but once they find themselves without a vehicle, even if they want to go somewhere, they can't."

"It's kind of a psychological thing. They get antsy because it's not there. If I was in their position, however, that's how I would want to be treated. I wouldn't want to have to leave my car there for days at a time. I'd rather have it done right then and go on with my day."

Bruns said the emotional attachment between

drivers and their vehicles is a sacred thing around his shop, no matter what make or model they bring to him to be repaired.

"People are definitely attached to their vehicles," said Bruns. "It doesn't matter if it's an old car or a new car, in poor or good condition — it's theirs and they are attached to it. A lot of people are down right scared to let someone drive off in their car. So you have to have a certain amount of trust there. I have to convey to them they can trust me with their car."

"There are plenty of situations where the owner of the car will describe how they want the car handled — be sure you don't slam this and that sort of thing. It can be a really emotional thing when it comes to their cars."

Bruns said he was bitten by the "mechanic bug" early in life, thanks in part to an undying curiosity and a big brother's ill-fated idea for a station wagon.

"I remember talking with my mother, and she said usually two weeks after Christmas I had everything that I got tore apart," said Bruns with a grin. "I would disassemble it because I wanted to



Curtis Bruns has always enjoyed tinkering with things, especially to help someone out.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

know how it worked. Of course, I didn't learn how to put stuff back together until a while after that.

"The first car I got was pretty much destroyed. My brother had it before me, and he had taken all of the doors off and the seats out. It was a station wagon and he was going to cut the roof off and make a hunting buggy out of it. So I had to pretty much put it back together and reassemble everything. I had to overhaul the engine. Me and a buddy did that, and it didn't run when we were through. We had to get some help with that."

"When I was going to get married, I asked myself what could I do for a living," said Bruns. "I didn't go to college and I needed something to do, so I decided I could be a mechanic. I went to a technical college in Dallas straight out of high school. That was in 1973, and I've been doing this ever since."

So how much have automobiles changed over the past three decades?

"The vehicles today are more like rolling computer systems than cars," said Bruns. "Almost everything is automated with sensors and comput-

ers make decisions that most drivers aren't even aware are happening. It's split second. Almost all functions of a car are being controlled by computers, and at least every two years it all changes. So it's a constant that you have to get training and you have to read a lot to keep up."

Bruns said the college courses didn't end 31 years ago, as he frequently travels to Lubbock for courses on different cars and systems, and even now, as he sharpens his skills in a different area of his job — business management.

"The college courses I'm taking right now are for business management," said Bruns. "Most of the time a mechanic gets to a point where he decides he wants to own his own shop, but he's more of a repair technician than a business man. So when you start your own business you begin finding out this isn't as easy as I thought it was. There's a lot more to it. There are lots of times I think I'd rather be out there just working on cars."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer



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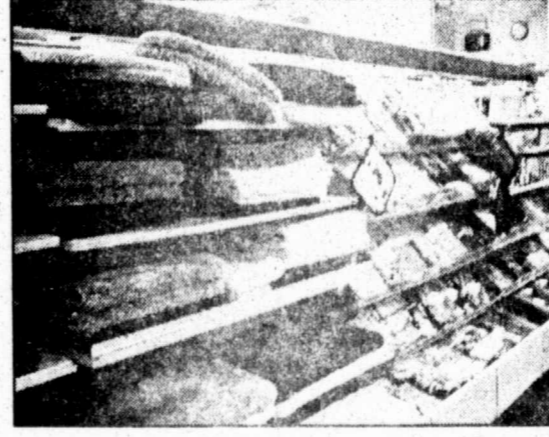


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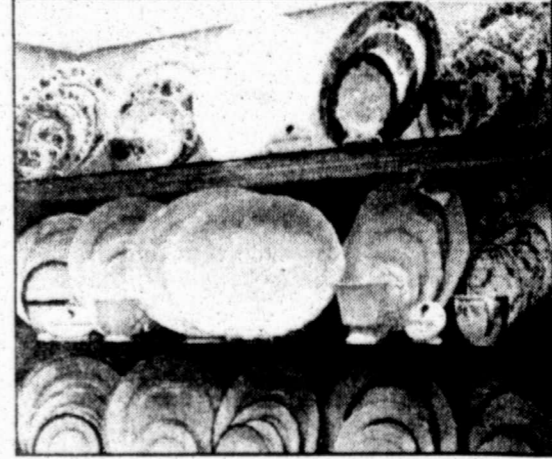
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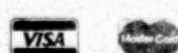
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Cowboy wordsmith touches people's hearts

"Some of the poems I've come up with have really touched people, and to me, that's the greatest compliment I can get."

People give to their community in many different ways, but how many can say they do it with poetry?

Local resident Carl Condray certainly fits that bill, having been a "cowboy poet" for many years, a somewhat forgotten art that found great success among the open range of West Texas many years ago.

It's an art Condray is reintroducing to the trend-setters of American society — the youth.

"We're having poetry workshops in the schools, and that's the one thing I'm most proud of," said Condray. "This is the second year for the program. Last year it was sort of a pilot program with the fourth-graders, teaching them how to write cowboy poetry. We're in the process of setting up the sessions for this year."

Condray said he was slightly apprehensive about bringing the art to elementary school students, but as with most things in life, the sessions held an amazing surprise for the veteran poet.

"It's a blast. The kids in fourth grade are some of the most creative children I've ever seen, and I had no idea what I was jumping into," said Condray. "I thought I was going to have to tone the program down for elementary level students. That's how I found out just how wrong and foolish I was."

"These kids are phenomenal. I really feel like they challenged me more than I challenged them. It's really helped me grow as a poet and I've enjoyed learning what these kids think about."

How did Condray get involved in cowboy poetry? According to him, it was simply a match made in heaven.

"I'm a history buff. I really love history," said Condray. "And I love poetry. Cowboy poetry is really the best of both worlds. Cowboy poetry came to us from the immigrants — there's a lot of Irish and Spanish influence — and was a communication skill that prospered in the west."

"A lot of the cowboys weren't the most literate people — some of them could read and write and some of them couldn't — but if you could put a folk tale or old folk song to rhyme and meter it's easier to remember."

Condray said his own experiences in the world of performing his cowboy poetry began just where you might expect — at a cowboy convention.

"I've been writing poetry for years and years," said Condray. "I had written some poems for friends, and I would recite them for them. The first performance I did was in Lubbock at the National Cowboy Symposium. I caught an open mic session one time, and ever since then I've been invited back as a feature poet. It's really opened up some doors for me and I've met some of the greatest poets around."

"Most of the people I've met at these gatherings are the kind you would want to be friends with anyway. They're really good people."

A big part of performing poetry is simply remembering what you've written, and according to Condray, it's not hard when you love the words

you're saying. "People always ask me how I can remember this stuff," Condray said with a grin. "It's the same way you remember your

favorite movie or book. You can tell it to me and recount it. All you're doing is telling a story, and that's all cowboy poetry is — telling a

story. When you write it or if it's a poem that you read and it really endeared itself to you, you make it part of your own thinking, which makes it easy to pass it on to others."

Condray said the applause, and sometimes the tears, are the ultimate payoff for his poetry.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world," said Condray. "I've been blessed. Some of the poems I've come up with have really touched people, and to me, that's the greatest compliment I can get. People tell me they like the poems and they were funny, and that's great. That makes you feel good. But when someone comes up to me and tells me the poem really moved them or it reminded them of their grandpa — that it touched them in a deeply personal way — that's what it's all about."

"You can see that when you're performing. You can look out over the audience and see how the people are receiving it. And when they come up to you afterwards and you can see that it really moved them, that's really powerful."

—Thomas Jenkins, staff writer



Beans 'n' Taters

I had spent months on the plains, in the winds and the rains
And scarce would you hear me complain.
But enough is enough and I took lots of guff,
So sit back and I'll try to explain.

I worked hard and rode true for the "Rockin' bar Two."
But on that outfit I was considered a rookie.
And though the work wore me down, a few pleasures were found;
Like those from the cast iron of "Cookie."

"Ole' Sam" was his name and he'd sure earned his fame.

From his years he'd learned quite a lot.
He'd tangled with horses and cattle, giving both quite a battle.

But now too old, he just wrangles a pot.

With biscuits so light, and his cobblers, just right,
When he rang the bell, you came running fast!
Cookie kept us all well fed; from our risin' till bed,
For as long as he could make the grub last.

But that drive I remember, went on till November.
The times, they got lean, cold and hard.
Several weeks, along that way, for three meals a day
All we had was "taters and beans" fried in lard.

Now some things shouldn't be; but it weren't up to me.
Oje' Sam did make that point clear!
And though most of that crew would let their gripes spew,

My complaints were met with a sneer.

I guess Sam took a note, he dusted off his coat,
And pranced 'round like them fancy French waiters!
And for me, his menu did change, that day on the range.

From "taters and beans" to...
"Beans and taters!"



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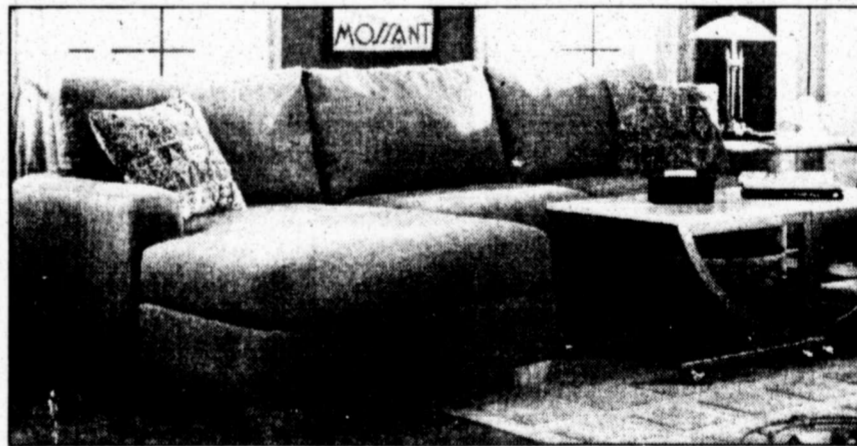
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Helping others understand Native American heritage

For years, Robert Downing has been interested in his Native American heritage. Now, he hopes to spread that interest to the community.

Downing, who traces his ancestry to the Kiowa tribe, is busy organizing the Big Spring Powwow, a "family reunion" of sorts for Native Americans, scheduled for April 23-24 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

As president of the organizing committee, Downing is at the forefront in getting the word out about the upcoming event, and he admits being the point man for such an undertaking has been an adjustment.

"I'm normally a background worker," he said. "I'm not one of those people who likes being in the

limelight. As this goes along, you probably won't see me as much — but I guess you do what you have to do to get things off the ground."

Downing's great-grandmother was of Kiowa descent, which in part fueled his interest in Native American heritage.

"I've been interested in Indian culture since I was young," he said. "Like a lot of kids, I grew up reading about cowboys and Indians."

His interest soon expanded to the point that he began attending Powwows on a regular basis at age 11. Although performing Indian dances is a big attraction, Downing said that the opportunity to meet others is important, also.

"(A Powwow) is like a Native American family reunion — that

has dancing in it," he said. "It's a chance for people to come together and socialize; see people they haven't seen in a while ... Some of the bigger ones go on for a week."

The Big Spring Powwow, which is returning after an absence of about 10 years, will offer traditional dances, as well as Native American vendors. But Downing hopes the event will be educational to visitors.

"Basically, I want to educate Big Spring to some of the Native American ways that are very prevalent in our culture," he said. "Too much of it has been lost."

—Steve Reagan, staff writer

Savvy student

Despite being just 17, Cassandra Willis knows what she wants out of life

Cassandra Willis shops for a prom dress, attends high school classes and fusses with her hair just like any other teen-age girl.

But she also demonstrates an attitude of service that places confidence in the youth of today becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

A Big Spring High School senior destined to graduate May 27, Cassandra has plans for her future that do not include getting caught up on any teen-age stumbling blocks.

She received a scholarship to attend McMurry University this fall, where she plans to obtain a teaching degree in elementary education. She currently works as a teacher's aide for Bauer Magnet School.

"I interviewed for a teacher's aide position with both Bauer and Moss elementary. They interviewed 35 students and I was one of two who was hired," she said.

Her position at Bauer earns her minimum wage, part-time pay, but the reward she receives from the students increases her earnings ten-fold.

"I like to watch a child grow, to see them at the beginning of the year when they just don't get it and then see them at the end of the year where it all starts coming together. I love being with the kids and seeing that, it's fantastic," she said.

Part of her duties includes listening to first graders practice their reading skills and she also does other duties as directed by elementary teachers. She supervises the children after school as they wait for the school bus or their parents to pick them

up.

Willis volunteers her own after school and work hours in a variety of ways, and has sacrificed her spring break vacation the past five years to travel to Juarez, Mexico with a church volunteer group to build a house.

"I have learned so much from that experience and I'll go again this year. There is so much we take for granted that a third-world country doesn't have and when I travel I see how much we have," she said.

Cassandra, who turns 18 July 4, is the only child of Joyce and Scott Willis. Born in Blackwell, Okla., she moved with her family to Big Spring in 1992 when Scott accepted a physical therapist position at the VA Medical Center. Joyce is the children's minister for Cornerstone Church.

"God is No. 1 in my life and he has really helped me the past couple of years. My relationship is so much stronger now than what it used to be," Cassandra said.

Cassandra extends her service attitude into several other areas within the community. She is a Living Christmas Tree vocalist, just completing her fourth year with the project.

She is also a member of the Rhapsody Singers, a special high school choir, and has been a Relay For Life participant for the past four or five years, volunteering to walk with a team from First United Methodist Church.

She was a member of Spirit Wind, a traveling choir, for



Cassandra Willis works in the afternoon at Bauer Magnet School as a teacher's aide. Here she helps first graders, from left, Branden Sparks, Rafael Hernandez, Melina Molina and Brittney Bermea improve their reading skills.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

"I know there is a better way to be accepted than doing drugs and giving into friends' peer pressure."

three years. Her last year with this choir, she and about 60 other youth traveled in a tour bus from Midland to San Francisco, Calif., to Seattle, Wash., to Vancouver and Calgary, Canada, back to Midland.

The trip home lasted 36 straight hours and the entire tour was completed in a little over two weeks.

"I really like to travel and to see other things and that trip really opened my eyes," she said, adding the trip was a great experience.

Cassandra acknowledges her life has been virtually drama-free, and she credits her faith and God with her ability to survive the small upsets encountered in daily living.

One passion the teen-ager holds is her love of political ideals and she said First Lady Barbara Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are two of her role models.

"I think I am like Laura Bush, because her focus is all about kids and seeing that they get an education. I don't know if she likes politics, but she's not just some teacher from Midland, Texas. She shows that teaching

is not just an ordinary job," Cassandra said.

Minorng in political science is another of her ambitions, and while she doesn't have plans to run for office, she does hope to teach government at a high school, college or university some day.

"I like Condoleezza Rice because she stands up for what she believes and she doesn't let people push her around. I used to be really quiet and the kind of person who was afraid to speak up, but I am really becoming more outspoken," she said.

Standing up for her beliefs is one way Willis combated the constant peer pressure teenagers face. She said that although no one ever actually offered her drugs, she knew they were available and that some of her friends were involved in doing drugs.

"So many of us have to face the peer pressure of our own friends and there are so many who think being popular is the answer and that drugs are the answer, that that's the way to be accepted.

"But I know there is a better way to be accepted than doing

drugs and giving into friends' peer pressure. I had some trouble with friends I used to hang out with. They never asked me to do drugs with them and they always talked about me being the 'religious person' in the group because I liked to go to church. They never saw a real reason for going to church and I didn't see a real reason for doing drugs," she said.

Cassandra is also involved in the youth group at Cornerstone Church and at First United Methodist Church and she is a member of YoungLife and attends club on Monday nights after dance class.

She has been in dance for the past five years and takes classes at the Dance Gallery. She does take vacation once a year and visits family in Louisville, Ky., and she also goes to Buckman Church Camp once a year.

"There haven't been any really hard times in my life and the minor things have all been resolved. I really attribute everything to God. I really feel at peace about things now," she said.

—Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

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Coastal Rock

Everyone sees a story, but College assistant basketball coach Rodewald, who come in all sizes.

Rodewald came to Big Spring in June to assist a women's basketball team which was in turmoil upon coach Earl's arrival. He has coaching experience to Howard, but also big into the specifically and radio.

In some situations was a coach at station at the

He was coach mer league basketball for three years and eighth-grade ball team at the for five years Beatrice, Neb. school and at Community Rodewald se years as the assistant women's ball coach at assistant at school in girls' and track.

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Rodewald's was Auburn. he did basket where Jason Howard Col assistant coach, went school.

"Coach Sa good, but he short," said Rodewald of t Howard co played with Division I tal team was real

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Coach Rodewald

Former newspaper, radio man says coaching is really what he enjoys most

Everyone seems to have a story, but for Howard College assistant women's basketball coach Eric Rodewald, those stories come in all shapes and sizes.

Rodewald came to Big Spring in January to assist a women's basketball team which was in turmoil upon he and head coach Earl Diddle's arrival. He has had lots of coaching experience prior to Howard, but he was also big into the media — specifically newspaper and radio.

In some situations, he was a coach and an on-air talent for the local radio station at the same time.

He was coach of a summer league baseball squad for three years, a seventh- and eighth-grade basketball team at the AAU level for five years working in Beatrice, Neb., at the high school and at Southeast Community College. Rodewald served two years as the college's assistant women's basketball coach and was an assistant at the high school in girl's basketball and track.

However, he was a newspaper stringer for one and a half years and has also been a sports director at three radio stations in Nebraska.

"I actually got all three jobs without applying," said Rodewald. "I just showed up and was sent straight to the field. Then the next day I was hired."

Rodewald's first stop was Auburn, Neb., where he did basketball games where Jason Sautter, Howard College men's assistant basketball coach, went to high school.

"Coach Sautter was good, but he was a little short," said a laughing Rodewald of the then 5-10 Howard coach. "He played with a lot of Division I talent and his team was really good."

"But he is like 6-2 now and all grown up."

His next stops on the air were Fairbury and Beatrice, both in Nebraska.

"I didn't really have any radio experience prior to these jobs and I had to learn a lot as I went along," said Rodewald. "I had a lot of bad habits at first and had no formal structure, but I just approached things like no one was listening."

The only experience Rodewald had was no professional experience.

"I announced during video game play with friends and everyone that lived in the dorms nearby my room would always stop just to hear me doing commentary," said Rodewald. "The kids playing didn't like it though."

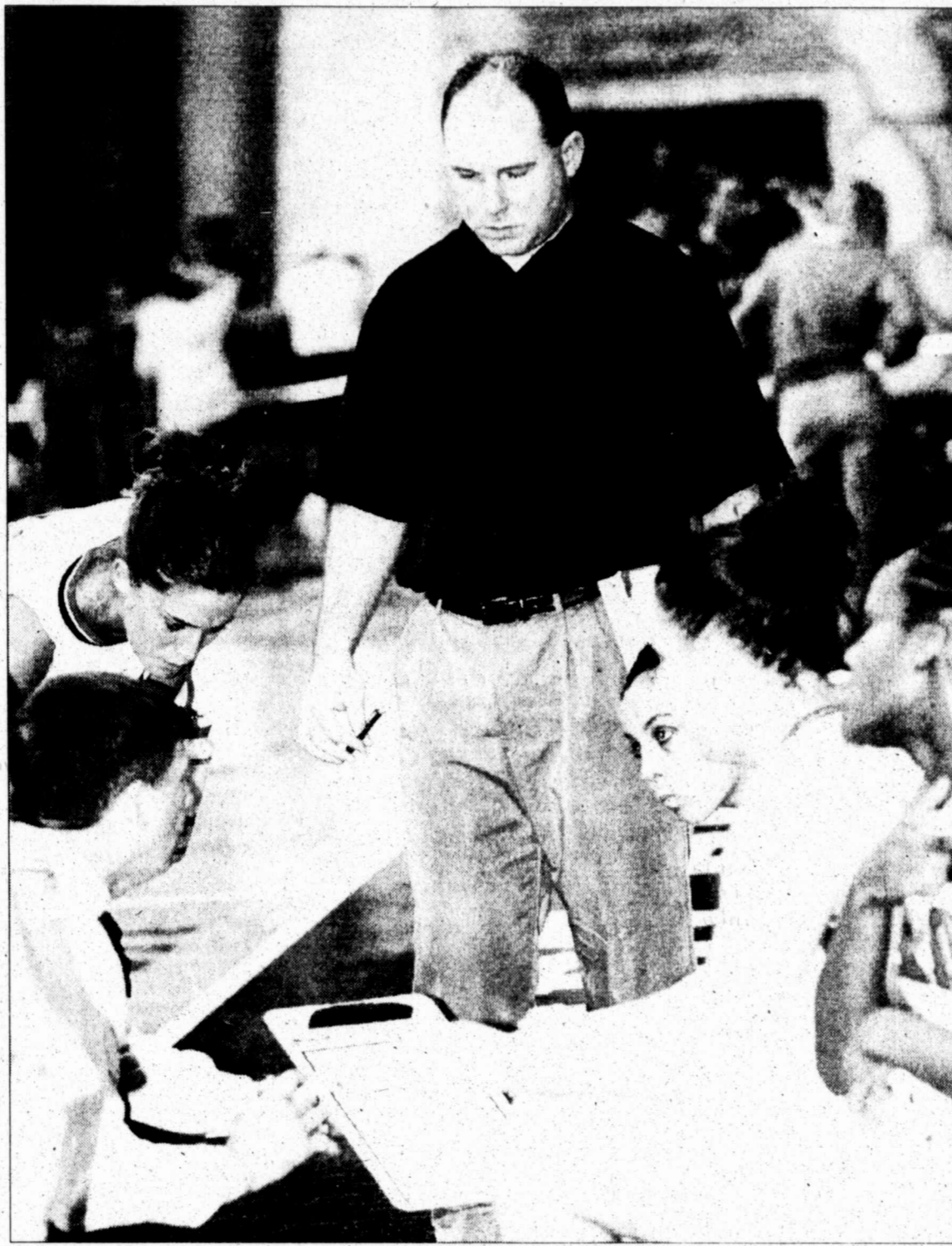
Rodewald's original plan was to go into broadcasting, but later changed his mind because coaching was more rewarding in his opinion.

"My friend was suppose to play for the Cincinnati Reds and I was suppose to be the team's announcer," said Rodewald, who is a long-time Reds fan. "That was the plan, but in the end coaching is what I wanted to do more."

Although coaching has its long days, another reason for Rodewald's switch in career plans involved the time consuming efforts it took to do radio.

"I once worked 364 out of 365 days in one year," he said. "The only day I had off was New Year's Day. The positive from that was I got to watch football all day long."

Rodewald has many



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Eric Rodewald listens in during a timeout as head coach Earl Diddle shouts out instructions. Rodewald and Diddle joined the Hawks' program in January.

fond memories of his broadcasting days.

He broadcasted the first-ever high school state championship games at Memorial Stadium — home of the Cornhuskers — in Nebraska.

He has also worked a football game which featured a brawl after the contest.

"It was the Peru State-Dana game this past year and I had to do the game outside," said Rodewald. "I was in the middle of my postgame wrap-up when a brawl broke out. I then broadcasted the fight for like 20 minutes. It was kind of fun."

Rodewald also broadcast a game in freezing rain, which he said was not fun for anyone involved.

"The players were so cold they ran straight to the showers in the locker room afterwards and didn't even take off their equipment," he said. "I also wrecked on the way home."

Rodewald has experienced football in a non-

traditional fashion as Nebraska had several teams play with eight players — a style similar to Texas' six-man game. His best experience with eight-man football involved a game featuring 2,000 fans and a team with 87 straight wins.

"Fall City-Sacred Heart had won 87 straight games before Table Rock Steinauer beat them in multiple overtimes," said Rodewald. "It was the best high school football atmosphere I have ever witnessed. Every media outlet in the state was there."

"Then Steinauer lost the next game. I guess the big win took a lot out of them."

All these "good" experiences couldn't keep Rodewald in the broadcasting field as he switched to coaching full-time and now gets the pleasure of assisting Howard's women's basketball team for years to come.

"I was in school and an

assistant coach at Beatrice High School when I got the call to come down here," said Rodewald. "I had another interview for a job, but I cancelled it when I got hired at Howard. Ironically, the team I was interviewing for was also nicknamed the Hawks — the HaySprings Hawks."

Rodewald had never met Coach Diddle prior to coming to Howard, but had heard of him.

"I had heard of him because he was a legend," said Rodewald. "He is a good guy and has great knowledge of the game. And he would give someone the shirt off his back if they needed it."

Rodewald also said Diddle knows many people and has lots of connections, which could help the Hawks in the future.

"He knows everyone and their mom," Rodewald said. "He knows Larry Bird, Bobby Knight and Bobby Plum, just to name a few."

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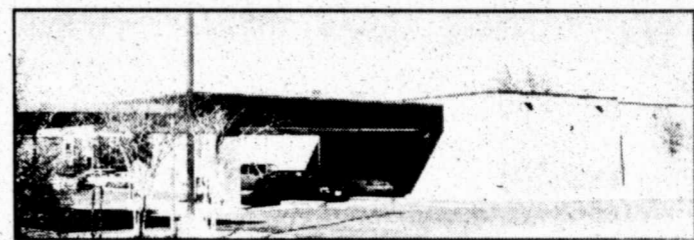
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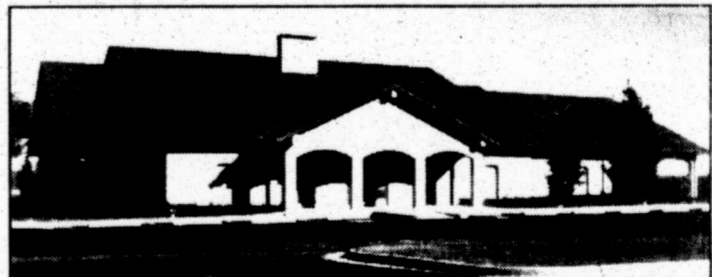
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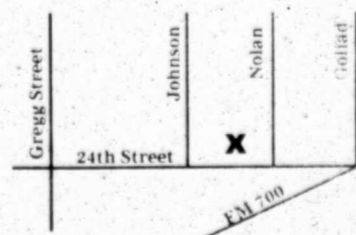
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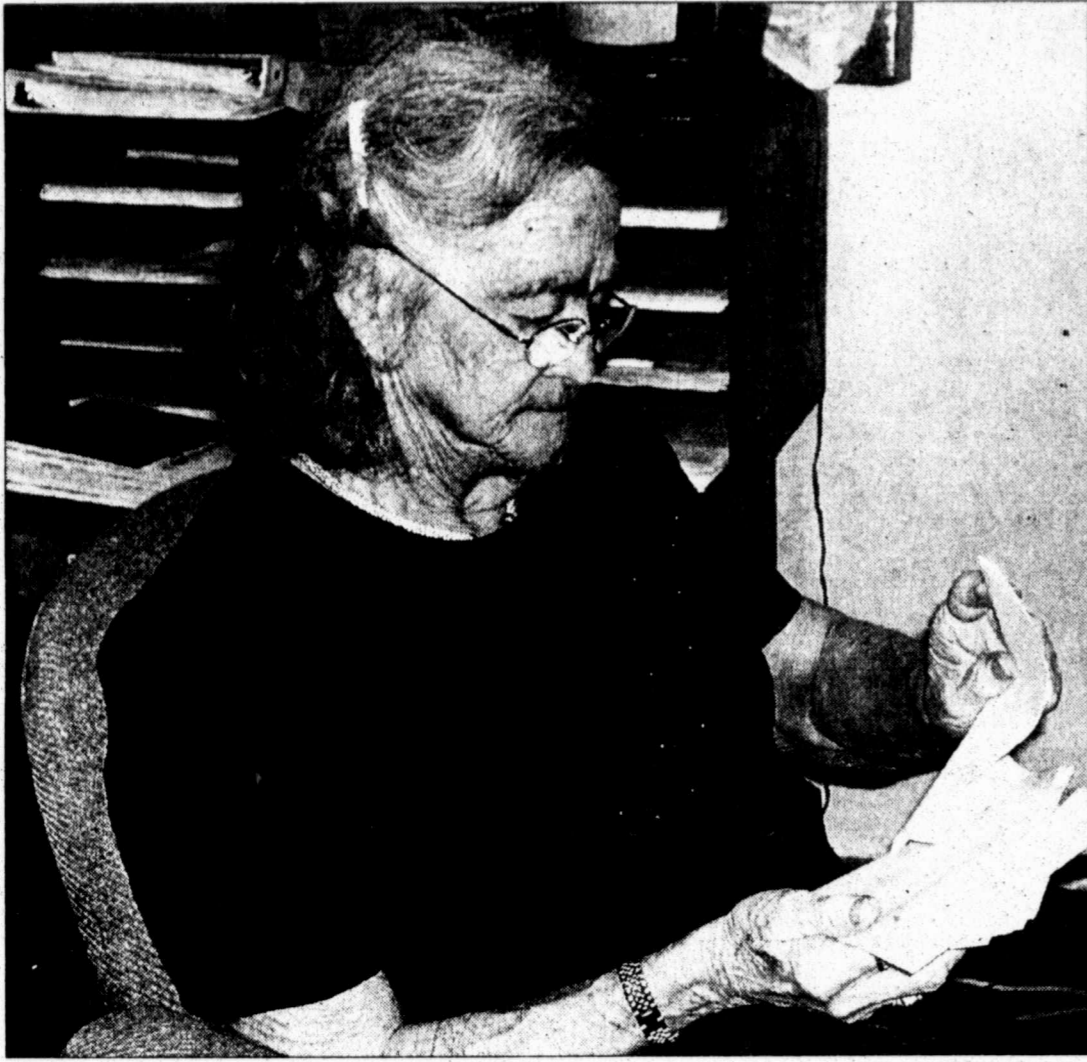
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Clara Lewis puts in her 40 hours as a volunteer



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Clara Lewis prepares envelopes for mailing at the Big Spring VA Medical Center. Lewis averages about 40 hours a week volunteering her time at the local hospital.

There's people who give their time freely — and then there's Clara Lewis.

Clara, who could give lessons on volunteering, has been a fixture at the Big Spring VA Medical Center for the past 29 years. During that time, she has logged more than 18,000 hours of volunteer service at the hospital.

For the curious, that translates to more than two years of Lewis' life — given away.

Not that she feels she's been shortchanged.

"My major satisfaction is to be here every day for the veterans," Clara said. "A lot of them won't get a smile from anyone but the volunteers. I've made a lot of friends among the veterans."

And Clara has made a lot of friends among the staff.

"She's just so dedicated," said Iva Jo Hanslik, community relations coordinator for the hospital. She works more than 40 hours a week ... She is very, very, very sincere in helping our veterans."

Clara began her long asso-

ciation with the hospital when her and her husband moved here in 1970. He became a patient at the VAMC, while she began volunteering her time at the facility.

"And it just boomeranged from there," she said.

"A lot of them won't get a smile from anyone but the volunteers. I've made a lot of friends among the veterans."

She said she had no intention on setting any sort of volunteer record, "but as time went on, more volunteers quit coming, and there was still a need."

Without outside prompting, Lewis took it upon herself to begin filling that need. And she's kept on filling those needs ever since.

Except for direct medical care — "I'm not a nurse," she's quick to assert — Clara has seemingly done a little bit of everything at

the hospital, from answering phones to stuffing envelopes to simply keeping patients company.

In her time at the VAMC, Clara's touch has extended from helping patients and their families receive benefits to ensuring that photos on the Wall of Honor — the photo gallery of Medal of Honor recipients in the front lobby of the hospital — were properly framed and tagged.

Despite the years and the long hours, despite the death of her first husband in 1999, Clara still enjoys her work at the VAMC, and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon.

"I'll keep this up as long as my health provides," she said. "I told my soon-to-be husband (she has since remarried) that if he didn't want to share me with (the hospital), then he better forget the whole thing."

"And as you can see, I'm still here, so I guess he didn't mind that much," she added.

—Steve Reagan, staff writer

Last hurrah

Steve Waggoner has enjoyed three decades as an educator but he's giving it up... for now

When the final school bell rings in May, it will be the last one for Steve Waggoner, principal at Washington Elementary.

The well-known local educator will retire after 31 years, all of it spent with the Big Spring Independent School District.

Waggoner began his career as a band director, working at Rannels Junior High School and Big Spring High School. Seventeen years later, he made a change and took the post of principal at Kentwood Elementary. He stayed there 8 years, followed by three years each at Anderson Kindergarten Center and Washington Elementary.

"I will miss the kids and the teachers," Waggoner said, adding that he plans to take some time off before deciding about any future plans. In the meantime, it's likely he will continue to be an enthusiastic advocate for education at the state level.

"Some of the things the Legislature is talking about really concern me," he said. For one, Waggoner would like to see a pay increase for teachers and school staff.

"Everybody in education needs to be financial-

ly rewarded for what they do," he said. "Teachers, especially, work very hard."

Another concern of Waggoner's is the rigorous testing now given to third graders.

"These are 8 and 9-year-olds, and they must take one test that determines whether they pass or fail a class. That's a lot of pressure to put on little kids."

Waggoner said overall, there needs to be more awareness about the needs of children.

"Kids need to be kids," he said. "And I'm not sure when that time is anymore."

He has had experience at a lot different schools and grade levels, and Waggoner said he sincerely enjoyed his time at Anderson Kindergarten Center, where all of the city's kindergarten students were placed together in one building. The local district now places kindergarten through fourth grade at each elementary school.

"I don't have experience with (that kind of system) at other grade levels," he said, "but I know it worked very well at Anderson Kindergarten Center. With all the teach-



HERALD Photo/Debbie L. Jensen
Steve Waggoner, principal at Washington Elementary School, visits with kindergarten students, from left, Taylor Hull, Zachary Bennett and Mercedes Castillo, recently. Waggoner will retire at the end of this school year after 31 years with the Big Spring Independent School District.

ers together, there was plenty of experience, plenty of help around. And they all worked together."

While he misses making music and teaching kids to enjoy music, Waggoner said he still gets a chance to work with the bands now and then. Other than that, he said, he has put music on a shelf in favor of other aspects of education.

"Being a principal, you wear so many different

hats every day. You have to be the nurse sometimes, the counselor, the disciplinarian. And there is something that happens that you didn't expect, every day."

Waggoner said the days when principals were feared by their students are gone — almost.

"So many kids come in here (to my office) for so many reasons. They read to me, they just want to talk to me about some-

thing. But then there are times that kids have to be told, 'no,' also."

Waggoner said he enjoys seeing the progress children make in school as they learn basic, but important skills. He stressed that the single most important thing parents can do is read to their kids.

"Read to them before they can read. When they can, have them read to you," he said. "Reading is

the key to any child's success in school."

And for students, especially those who will leave Washington and other elementaries this year for "big school" next fall, Waggoner has some advice as well.

"Always do your best, no matter where you are," he said.

—Debbie L. Jensen, contributing writer

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"I got that harp
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Penning lines of rhyme

*It comes so easy
to Louise Burgess*

For local poet and songwriter Louise Burgess, penning lines of rhyme seems as simple as breathing.

"I am really amazed that everyone can't do this because it is so natural to me," said Burgess, who has hundreds of poems to her credit and at least half that amount of gospel songs.

Burgess began writing songs and poems when she was a child. Born in Roanoke, Ala., she plays a variety of instruments, including the piano, mandolin, guitar, bass, organ, harmonica and omnichord, although she does not read music.

"When I was about 9, my older sister had a date come to our house and he had a harmonica, what we called a harp.

"I got that harmonica and hid it from him so he had to leave without it. When he came back a few days later, I had taught myself to play it. He was so impressed he gave the harmonica to me and I've been playing ever since," she said.

In the 1970s, Burgess performed with the Country Cousins and the Vandoyl Murphree Band. Her husband, Smokey, who died in 1978, was stationed at Webb Air Force Base in the 1960s. When the couple retired, they moved back to their same home in Big Spring.

During the 1970s, they traveled around West Texas to jamborees with the Country Cousins and later with their own band, The Ramblers. These jamborees were performed at the Municipal Auditorium in Big Spring, as well as Big Lake, Pecos, Monahans, Midland, Odessa, Mason, Seminole, Ozona, Wink, Andrews and San Angelo.

"I played rhythm guitar and Smokey was often the MC and comedian. He did a comedy routine as a

character called Maggie, where he wore a faded, old dress and played an old washtub. He would introduce me as his wife, Crisco. We had a lot of fun," she says.

Today, Burgess plays bass guitar with the Praise Band at her church, Baptist Temple, about once a month. And she often has musicians in her home.

"We try to get together about once a month to play in my living room. We'll play for hours," she said.

Burgess writes songs and poetry that reflect a world of yesterday, filled with sensory words that strike memories of a bygone era. Many of her poems depict a simpler time, when the world moved at a slower pace and family gatherings were the focal point of life.

"I like to write about things people remember, like the sights and sounds I experienced riding in the back of a wagon on the way to church, or the things we used to see in a general store. There are lots of people who remember those times," she said.

Burgess, born Louise Beverly during the Depression, was the fourth child of John and Sarah Donie Heard Beverly. She had four sisters and one brother, with only her sister, Mattie Dean Burt of Big Spring, surviving.

Her age is often a topic of speculation, even among her descendants. "I don't tell people how old I am because I can't remember what I told them last year," she jokes. She has one daughter and several grandchildren.

"It's not that I'm old — I've just been here a long time," she quips.

Her sense of humor slips into some of her poetry:

"I saw some folks in town today



Louise Burgess, poet and songwriter, plays guitar, mandolin, harmonica and omnichord, among other instruments, without reading music. She performs in her church praise and worship band once a month. She has been writing songs and poetry since she was a child and started playing the harmonica when she was 9.

*Who looked at me oddly
then edged away*

*I wondered what it was
all about*

*Till I noticed my dress
was wrong-side out."*

And the events she records in her poems are based on stories and experiences she had growing up, with some poetic license.

Chief Weedowee, a poem she wrote about the namesake of Weedowee, Ala., where she was raised, is mostly a legend she heard as a child.

Other poems tell of her childhood and memories of her parents and other colorful personalities she recalls.

"There's a poem I'm writing now about my mother. She died when I was very young. The lines of a poem run around in

my head over and over until I write them down. Often that becomes a nuisance, because I'll want to think about something else but can't until the poem is written," she said.

Much of Burgess's poetry features descriptions of sights, sounds and even fragrances she recalls.

*"There were pickles,
coleslaw and butter beans
Corn bread muffins and
turnip greens*

*Strong black coffee in
thick steaming mugs
Sweet apple cider
poured from a jug"*

From "A Childhood Christmas," by Louise Burgess

"When I was growing up, it wasn't like it is

now, with supermarkets. If we didn't grow it on our farm, we didn't eat it," she said.

Many of the words and phrases she uses are no longer American vernacular yet add flare and character to her work.

"It is amazing to me that my grandchildren don't know what a corn pone or a steelyard pea or pot likker is," she said.

She explained that a corn pone was cornbread baked in a cone shape, a steelyard pea is a tool used for weighing cotton, "every farmer had one," and pot likker was boiled turnip greens' broth.

Burgess continues to write poetry that she

shares with the members of her church, her family and occasionally has published in the *Big Spring Herald*.

She has two poems that were selected by Walt Finley, longtime *Big Spring Herald* writer, placed into a time capsule buried in 1976 on the grounds of the Howard County courthouse: "Ain't God Good to Big Spring," and "The Country Store." The time capsule should be unearthed in 2026.

"I'd like to have my poetry published in a book someday," she said.

—Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

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God's Word

Witnessing to others is important to Dave Thomas

Everyone has a different reason for why, how and how often they worship. And in the mind of one Dave Thomas (no, not the founder of Wendy's) there is no limit.

During the day, Thomas spends his time either at school or at his on-campus work study job. His nighttime involves attending church and witnessing throughout Big Spring.

"The biggest reason why I do what I do as far as religion goes is because Jesus demands it," said Thomas, who is a criminal justice major this semester at Howard College.

Thomas is enrolled in 12 credit hours this semester and works five days a week at the Harold Davis Fitness Center. He also attends church three times a week — twice on Sundays and once on Monday — at the Eastside Baptist Church.

However, his religious efforts don't stop there. Thomas also goes door-to-door to "witness."

"I ask people a couple of things," said Thomas. "I ask if they are born again, if they are saved, if they believe in Jesus Christ and if they go to church. If they say they don't go to church then I ask them to go to my church."

"And I do this because I don't want to see anyone go to hell."

Thomas has been actively involved with the church since he was 9 years old. And he credits religion, church and Jesus Christ for being alive today.

"If it wasn't for being born again my life would have gone down the tubes," said Thomas. "My faith in Christ has made me stronger as a person."

"My father wasn't around when I was younger and I wasn't strong enough to make it on my own," he added. "I had a terrible time grow-



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Dave Thomas preaches the word of the Lord to some students at Howard College. Thomas claims the Lord is the single biggest reason why he is alive today.

ing up as I grew up without the foundation that a father is supposed to lay for his children."

Being a "child of God," Thomas also finds fondness in psychology because he believes it helps him find out why he is the way he is.

"Psychology helps me understand how vital being a father is," he added.

And being a father is something he has had to do by himself.

"I had to learn things on my own that I should have learned from my father," said Thomas.

When Thomas is not preaching to anyone who will listen, he spends time with his three sons, likes to hang out with friends and enjoy movies.

"My pastime is watching movies," said Thomas, "but my main hobby and focus in life is to serve God."

Although his father was not a big part of his life, it is Thomas's goal to be

with him in the future. In Israel.

"I plan on moving there within the next couple of years to be with my dad," said Thomas.

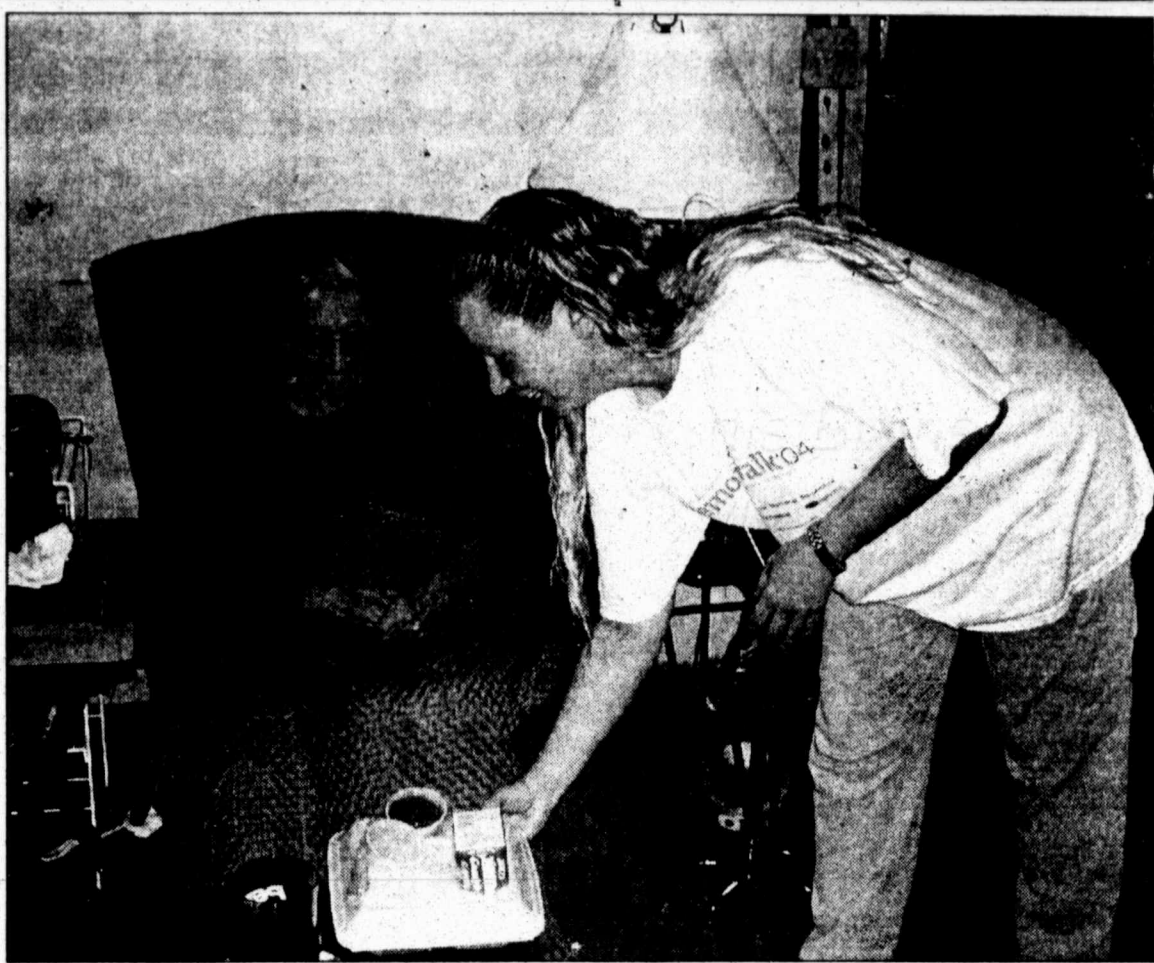
Thomas hopes to be in Israel in time for what he expects to be "the tribulation."

"The beginning of the tribulation will take place in 2010," said Thomas. "I believe the system, as it is, is passing away and the new system involves Jesus Christ reigning as a benevolent dictator for 1,000 years. I hope to be in Israel in time for this to happen."

Thomas's father is married to a Holocaust survivor.

There are a lot of people in this world who serve God and attend church frequently, but there are only a handful who serve the Lord like Thomas — all out, all the time.

—Troy Hyde,
sports editor



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Jennifer Jones, director of the local Mobile Meals program, delivers a meal for Delphina Laos. While delivering meals is part of her job as director of the local agency, it's the extra effort and attention she gives to the recipients of the meals that sets Jones apart.

Jennifer Jones delivers smiles along with food

Some might define a good neighbor as someone who goes out of their way to help people in their neighborhood. For local resident Jennifer Jones, that neighborhood includes Howard County — in its entirety.

Jones spends the majority of her time each day behind the wheel of her Jeep Cherokee, and while that may not seem worthy of praise, it's where she's going and what she's delivering that truly makes her a "good neighbor."

"I deliver meals to the north side," said Jones, who is the director of the local Mobile Meals program. "One of the most gratifying parts of delivering meals is, I know I'm the only person a lot of these people are going to see that day. I get to check on their well being, and if they need something and I can do it for them, I do."

"The north side is probably our most poverty stricken area besides the west side, and it's easy for me to see the necessity of this program. For some of these people, the meal we deliver is the only meal they will have that day. So it's really good to see that we can do this for them."

While delivering meals is part of her job as director of the local agency,

it's the extra effort and attention she gives to the recipients of the meals that sets her apart.

"I really enjoy getting to see the people we deliver to," she added. "I've fallen in love with every single one of them. They look forward to me being there just as much as I look forward to seeing them, checking on them and making sure they are OK."

While Jones is modest about what she does for the program — to the point of blushing uncontrollably — there's a three-generation lesson to be learned from what she and her family do for the needy each day.

"My mother got me started with the Mobile Meals program. She taught me how to volunteer and help people, and now I'm just handing it down the line to my children, who go with me sometimes and help deliver meals," she said with a laugh. "I would like for them to volunteer when they can when they get older, because it's a wonderful thing."

"People like to get paid for doing things, but there's such an amazing gratification that comes from volunteering. I think it's really important to make that impression on children. Let them know how important volunteerism is. We really

need to try to get more programs that allow children to volunteer. It's so important."

Jones said one elderly couple in particular have left a lasting impression on her about the importance of the Mobile Meal program — an impression that will last forever.

"There was an elderly Hispanic couple living on the north side," Jones explained. "They lived out of their living room. They had their bed in the living room and very rarely had their utilities on. But they were just the sweetest couple and they really looked forward to getting their meals. They would always stop and ask me how I was doing. They put their needs aside and took the time to ask about me and my children."

"The elderly just love kids, so they just get a twinkle in their eye when they see the kids coming up to their door to deliver a meal. They ask about them every time I see them. One lady even told me the other day she's adopted us."

It's not hard to understand why so many mobile meal clients think of Jones as part of their family, and overall, a good neighbor.

—Thomas Jenkins,
staff writer

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World

A change in h Noble a chance monality into s ing him a sort o Big Spring teen:

"I deal with all all teen-age pi acne to suicide kids deal with Texas, because I Noble, 30, said.

His experienc as a youth giv ground to rea and he relates because many a lar lives.

Noble was bor in 1974 and Spring High Sch floundered from first several ye school, never re niche, until he with Covenant I in May of 1999.

"I was never r al at anything descript, living I went from job started applying pal's in my life Christ's precept down in the Wo

"After I did th supervisor at v getting out of d and now my wi be successful at put our hands to A maintenanc mechanic for region of Cov Systems, Noble for maintaining Snyder, Midland Big Spring o Lubbock-based c

He travels t locales as need makes several t to Lubbock.

"I'm in char maintenance, v everything from bulbs to fixing l flooded rooms. I it," he said.

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Working with youth is Ken Noble's passion

A change in heart gave Ken Noble a chance to turn commonality into speciality, making him a sort of pied piper for Big Spring teen-agers.

"I deal with all teen-agers and all teen-age problems, from acne to suicide. I know what kids deal with in Big Spring, Texas, because I grew up here," Noble, 30, said.

His experiences in Big Spring as a youth give him common ground to reach teens today, and he relates to their lives because many are living similar lives.

Noble was born in Big Spring in 1974 and graduated Big Spring High School in 1992. He floundered from job to job the first several years after high school, never really finding his niche, until he took a position with Covenant Health Systems in May of 1999.

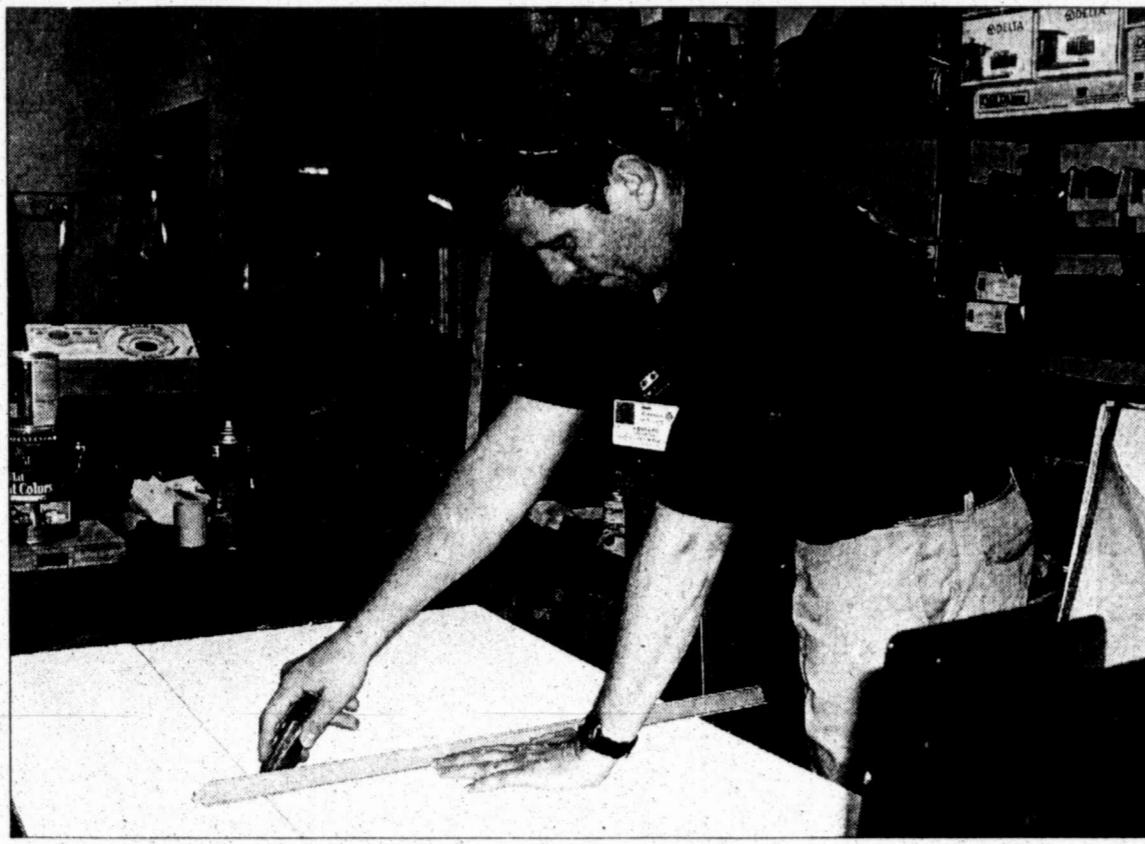
"I was never really exceptional at anything. I was nondescript, living a mediocre life. I went from job to job until I started applying God's principal's in my life and following Christ's precepts that he laid down in the Word.

"After I did that, I became a supervisor at work. I started getting out of debt financially and now my wife and I seem to be successful at everything we put our hands to," Noble said.

A maintenance supervising mechanic for the southern region of Covenant Health Systems, Noble is responsible for maintaining the facilities in Snyder, Midland, Andrews and Big Spring owned by the Lubbock-based corporation.

He travels to the various locales as need arises and he makes several trips each month to Lubbock.

"I'm in charge of building maintenance, which includes everything from replacing light bulbs to fixing leaky faucets to flooded rooms. If it's broke, I fix it," he said.



Ken Noble in his office and work room at Covenant Malone Hogan Clinic.

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Married for more than seven years to his wife, Jennifer, formerly of Dallas, the couple have two children, Logan, 6, and Hannah, who turns 4 in April.

"I even tried some college, but like many college students, I drank more than I studied and lasted about half a semester," he said.

Partying and hanging out with his friends were more important than pursuing an education, he said, and he had a different job every six months for several years.

"I was an average, run-of-the-mill youth, spending three to four nights a week at the bar, engaging in promiscuous sex and smoking marijuana socially, although I didn't get into any harder drugs. I was not bad, by the world's standards, but by Bible standards I was depraved," he said.

Noble said as a youth he often called in sick to work because

he was too hung over from the previous night of partying. He believed his life was normal and in line with the values he'd been taught, based on his understanding of right and wrong.

He credits God, his wife and a special spiritual program called Cleansing Streams with the change in his life.

"Jennifer was raised Lutheran and she met some women at work and got to talking and began asking 'what does it mean to be saved?' My father led her through the 'sinner's prayer' and began teaching her about salvation.

"Then we became involved in a Bible study, which is part of the Cleansing Streams program, and I learned how little I knew about the Bible and how misconceived my notions about Christ were. I was delivered at the Cleansing Streams retreat and I came to understand that a

Christ-centered lifestyle is not just a one-time prayer; it's about dedicating my whole life to the gospel," he said.

His life today has reached extraordinary bounds as he spends time with more than 100 youth each month. He is a volunteer youth minister at his church and he started a teen-age outreach that continues to see phenomenal growth.

The teenagers respond to him because he is able to relate to them right where they are. He understands the peer pressure teens face to join their friends in drinking, doing drugs and having sex.

He sponsors a Christian home-cell group, where many teen-agers visit him outside of church and he has established friendships with several high school and junior high school students.

"And now we have the Halo outreach, which started because of two youth in my home group, Mike and Chad Loftis, who talked with me about Halo. I bought one in May and told them this was a way to reach out to their friends. That has really grown and we have a minimum of 75 to 100 youth who now participate," he said.

The Halo Outreach Noble operates once a month at Cornerstone Church, where he

is the youth pastor, offers teen-agers a chance to indulge their passion about the X-Box video game, combined with an opportunity to hear a message about Jesus Christ.

The event has grown so that he has now divided the game nights into junior high school and high school.

Noble's vision for the future of Big Spring's youth is another passion he holds. He has met several times with various entities in town, looking for a way to bring an outreach program into the downtown area.

"My dream is to have a 'Third Place,' a phrase coined in the early 1990s by sociologist Ray Oldenburg who wrote 'The Great Good Place.'

"Basically I envision a community-gathering place like the old barber shops or the corner cafe, a place where teen-agers can hang out after school and where everyone can go to relax, have a good cup of coffee, not too overpriced, and see old friends and meet new ones — a place where everybody knows your name," he said.

Noble said this dream has been ongoing for several years and he finds himself driving through the downtown area every few months, looking over locations and dreaming big.

"I see this as a way to revitalize our downtown and add something to our community. Of course, I see that it needs a five- to six-year plan," he said.

He said he realizes time is a precious commodity in his life today, as his days are divided between working full-time, being a full-time volunteer youth minister, operating the Halo tournament and having a young family.

"And I still need to finish Bible college," he said.

—Marsha Sturdivant, features editor

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Today, I am superintendent of schools in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and have served as superintendent in Amarillo, Texas as well as Grand Junction, Colorado."

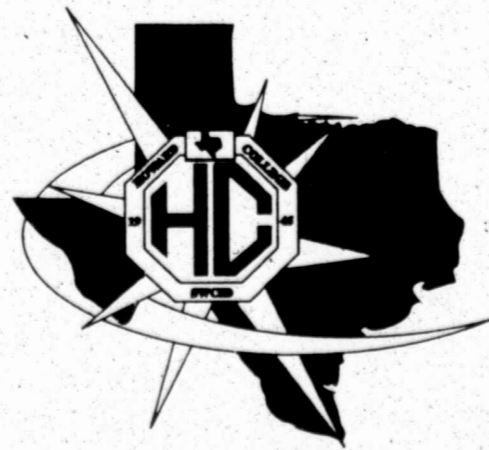
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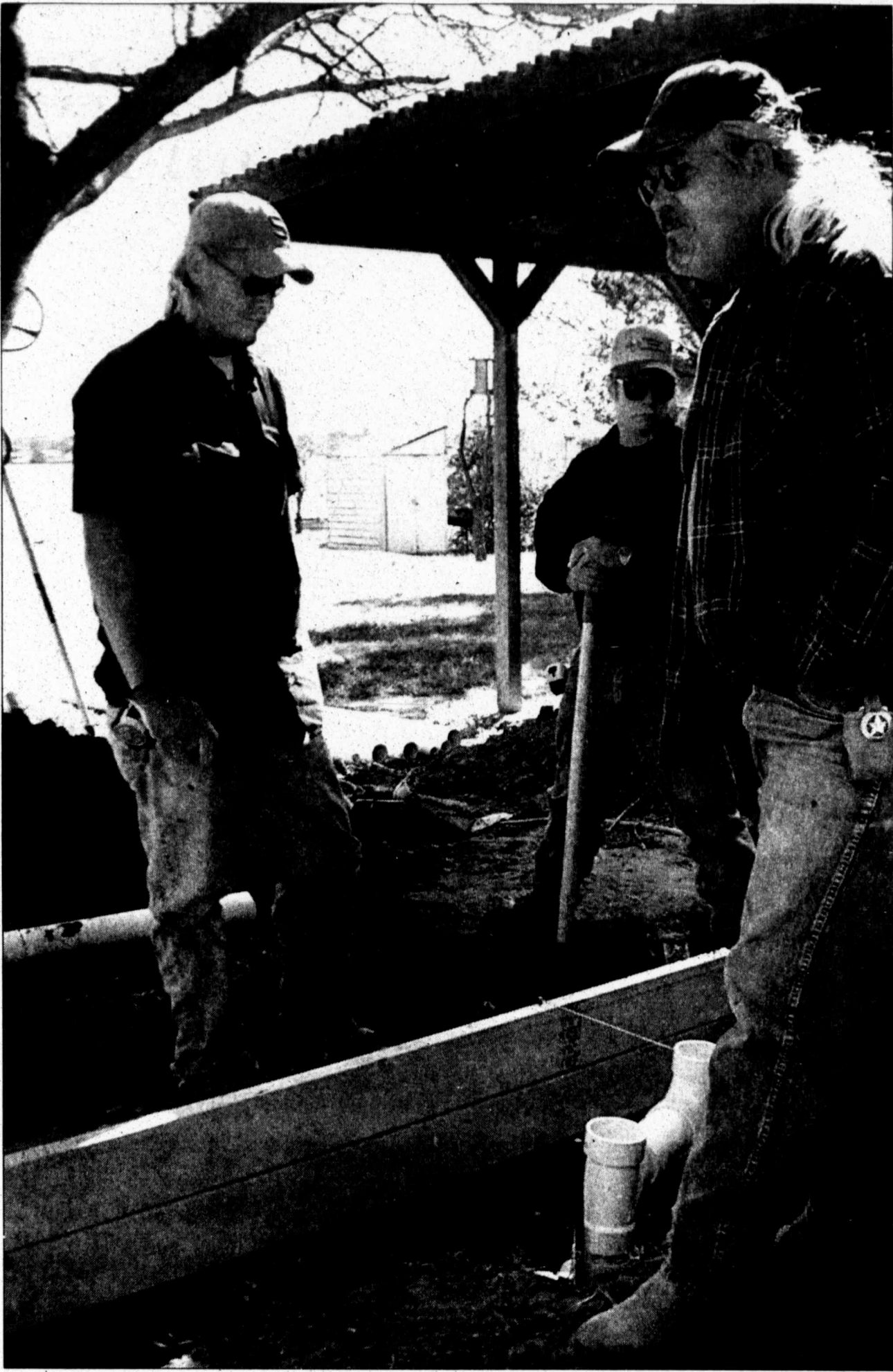
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GOOD NEIGHBORS

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SECTION H

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald
Sunday, March 27, 2005

Rex Rainey: A life transformed

After asking God to change his life, Rainey's working with others to help them do the same

Some people are capable of changing their lives. Others have them transformed. Rex Rainey counts himself among the latter. In fact, the Big Spring native will quickly tell you today that his efforts to "change his life" after a business failure led to disaster — crime, drug addiction and three trips to prison.

As a result, he looks at his life today as a business owner, husband, father, friend and role model for some, and can only describe himself as "blessed."

After graduating from Big Spring High School and attending Howard College for a time,

Rainey, like many young men in West Texas, spent some time working in the oil fields before going to work for a number of electrical supply businesses for about eight years.

Then came a chance to buy into an electrical supply business in Big Spring. By the early 1980s, he and a partner had bought the firm and seemed well on the way to making R&A Electrical and Lighting Supply a success.

"The economy was pretty good here then ... no, it was really good," Rainey recalls. "Business was pretty good. But then the bottom fell out of the oil business and our dealings with one customer sank our ship."

"This guy broke me and probably another 100 people here

around town," he added. "Between him and a Midland contractor, I had about \$120,000 owed to me that I couldn't collect. I just wasn't big enough to stand that kind of a hit."

In an attempt to get out of debt, Rainey went to work doing whatever he could — building fences, fireplaces ... whatever was asked of him.

It was hard work, but was paying off to some extent.

"I paid off a \$5,000 a month note doing construction work," he said. "In fact, I paid off all of my creditors with the exception of the bank and my grandfather, who'd signed a \$36,000 balloon note."

"The bank wound up calling the note. They tried to work

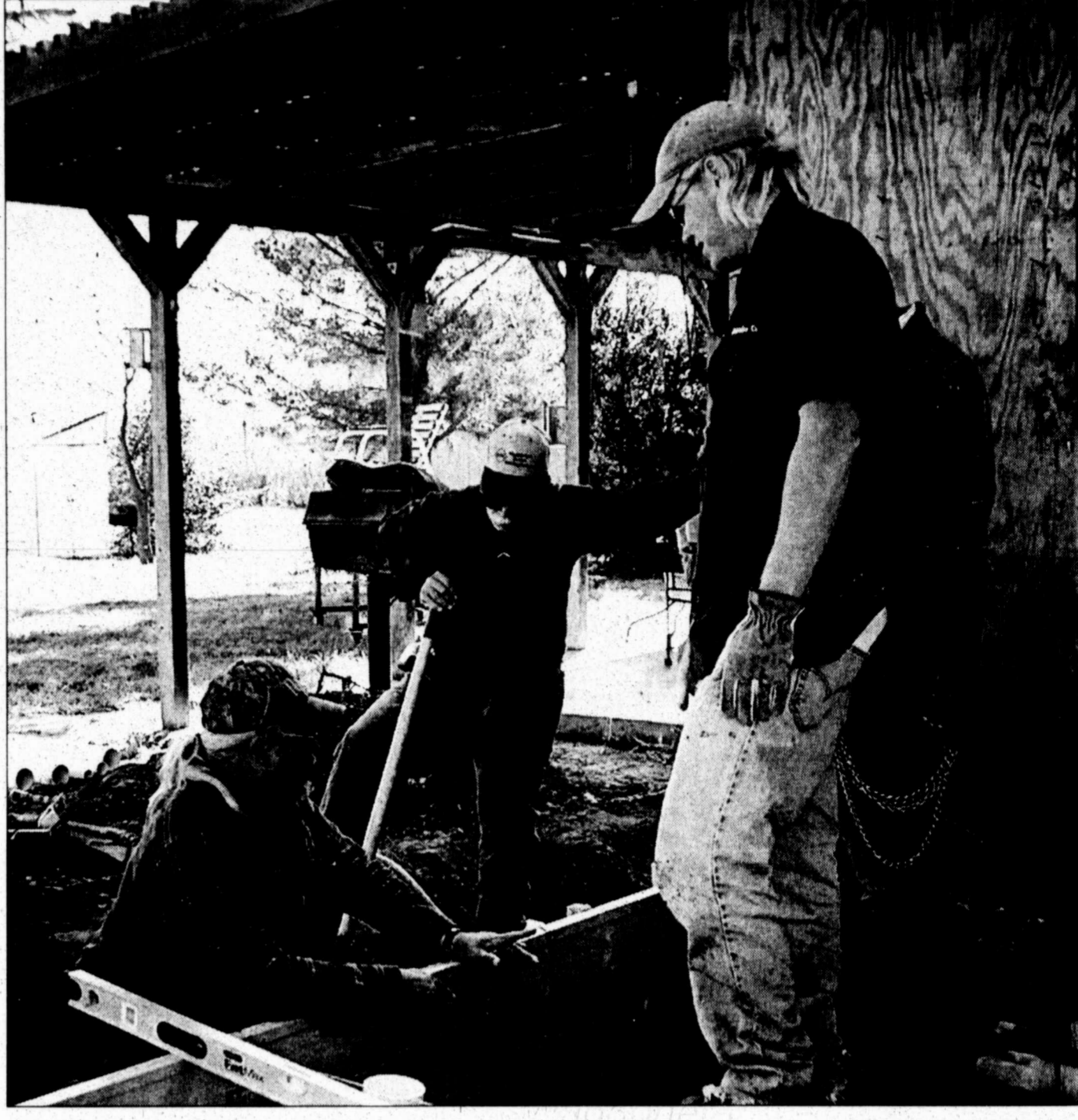
with me for a long time, but finally had to call it in. I remember in the banker's office and him telling me I was killing myself, but I was determined that I was going to pay the bank."

"About that time, a guy came to me and said he would put up his car and the title if I'd loan him \$10,000. He said he'd pay me \$15,000 a week later. And you know what, he did exactly what he said he'd do."

Rainey didn't ask many questions.

"I said to myself, 'Hey, that's pretty good return on investment right there,'" he said. "I did that several more times and that's when the greed took over and began to destroy everything I'd worked for."

"I eventually found out the



HERALD photo/John A. Moseley

Rex Rainey (left), founder of Restoration Ranch Ministries, discusses how a plumbing project should be installed in a home improvement project at Lake Colorado City with co-workers Robert Lemming (center) and David Summers.

guy was moving cocaine," Rainey explained. "I wound up asking him what kind of money I could make."

Rainey was in unfamiliar and shaky territory.

"I'd never been in trouble before ... maybe a speeding ticket or two, but that was the extent of it," he remembered. "I was a Sunday School teacher, a

member of the AMBUCS. I was just a normal, everyday working citizen."

"But once I put my hands on the dope to move it, it was like I was trapped and couldn't get out of it. I went from moving kilos of cocaine to being invited to go in with one of the biggest meth (methamphetamine) cooks around."

It was about that time that Rainey said he began using drugs himself and wound up with a \$1,000-a-day habit.

"It got worse and worse," Rainey explained. "I began to buy lots of stolen property — from guns, to jewelry, to heavy equipment and machinery. I

See RAINEY, Page 3H



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HERALD photo/John A. Moseley
Restoration Ranch Ministries workers David Summers (left) and Robert Lemming (center) take a breather, while Rex Rainey takes a moment to consider how he wants a sewer line to be installed during a remodeling project on Lake Colorado City.

Continued from Page 2H

became obsessed with that.

"Then I got caught and went to prison in Oklahoma. I'd wound up buying a whole Western Wear Store. One of the guys that was going to buy the stuff turned me in so he didn't have to pay for it."

After serving the two-year sentence the jury had given him, Rainey found himself out of prison and right back in

within minutes.

"The state of Oklahoma — the court — was not satisfied," Rainey explained. "The prosecutor in the case kept up with my release date. He felt like the jury didn't give me enough time. So, the day I was released, they arrested me in the parking lot outside the prison. They took me back to jail and I plea bargained for another three years."

During that stint in prison, Rainey began

attending a small Choctaw Indian church that would pick up prisoners in a van and take them to church services.

"I realized that I needed to look to God for some answers because my life was an absolute wreck," he admitted. "I went to church with the guys, played drums in a band there ... it was all about a religious experience. It was all a performance."

"I thought going to

Continued on 4H

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"My goal is to help these guys succeed. God's been so good to me. I'm getting jobs through word of mouth ... all the work we can handle. There's no question in my mind that if you seek first the Kingdom of God, he'll give you everything else."

Continued from Page 3H

church was the solution to things — that it would solve the problem.

"I did my time, was released, got a job and worked two days," Rainey added. "I took my paycheck for 16 yours and bought a stolen tool chest full of tools, thinking I could double or triple my money. There I went again. But this time it wasn't buying and selling hot stuff, it was robbing bookies and drug dealers."

"One thing led to another and there was a guy that had a John Deere dealership. He'd gone out of business, but still had a lot of machinery that John Deere owned. He found out about me, contacted me and asked if I could make that equipment disappear. Unfortunately, his niece saw me pull out of his property with a brand new John Deere tractor on his trailer. She called the law and I got caught red-handed with \$160,000 worth of stolen equipment."

Tried in Cooke County, Rainey was given a 15-year sentence on the habitual criminal statute, but wound up spending just three years in prison before being paroled.

Rainey said he asked Christ to come into his life during that stint in prison, but that didn't

result in a major life change.

"When I got out, I couldn't find a place to plug in," he explained. "I didn't fit in at Alcoholics Anonymous or churches. I didn't have what it took in my life to stay out of trouble. I couldn't find a place where people were sincere about helping people get clean, sober and crime free. I was trying to do it by myself."

He owed child support; didn't have a car; had no place to live; and had no money.

"I tried to find a place or a support group but it just didn't seem like it was there," he explained. "So, once again, I went right back to what I knew how to do. I knew how to make money. But this time I was a user, rather than just a dealer. I was doing \$1,000 of cocaine a day and wound up into some very heavy stuff. I was involved in a check scam and wound up with warrants on me, so once again they caught up with me and I went to jail again. This time it was in Collin County."

It was at that time, Rainey said, that his life was transformed.

"I was sitting there in a cell and somebody had left a Bible in there," he recalled. "I just prayed, 'Lord, if there's something that pertains to me

right now, I want to open this book up right now and I want to read it.'"

The verse Rainey opened the Bible to was Ephesians 4:28, "Let him who stole steal no longer. But rather let him labor with his hands doing that which is good so that he may have to give to those who are in need."

"That's the first time I'd ever prayed and knew that God had answered my prayer," Rainey said. "I said, 'I'm going to live for you while I'm in prison and live for you when I get out. I want you to show me how to make Jesus the Lord of my life.'"

It was not, Rainey stresses, a religious experience. It was a spiritual experience.

"I made parole again and knew I had an opportunity that a lot of people

don't have," he explained. "I had parents who were going to help me get started again. Most people coming out of prison don't."

"I had a vision of a ministry where I had a business that these guys could work and I could teach them the remodeling trade ... where there wouldn't be negative influences in their lives on a daily basis. To put them in a position where they're part of a body of people who don't condemn them."

That vision turned into Rainey's current business/ministry, Restoration Ranch Ministries which is headquartered in a shop building behind his Rockhouse Road home.

What Rainey now does is put parolees, recovering addicts and alcoholics

and others from challenging situations to work. And each work day begins with an hour of off-the-clock Bible study.

"My goal is to help these guys succeed," Rainey explained. "God's been so good to me. I'm getting jobs through word of mouth ... all the work we can handle. There's no question in my mind that if you seek first the Kingdom of God, he'll give you everything else."

Rainey said one of the things he's constantly amazed by is the people God puts in his life. "They're people like Carrol Kohl, Rob and Susanne Haney, Dean and Joe Barriball, Mike and Sherida Treadaway and Brooks and Susan Wallis in Colorado City," he noted. "These people are willing to serve as references and allow us to use their name — people who accept these guys and open their homes. God just keeps making a way for these guys. Parole officers support us 100 percent because they can see these guys are sincere."

Rainey said his current crew, includes three men and a woman — David Summers, Robert Lemming, Kealy Sarter and Bobbie Jo Nelson. "These guys realize a relationship with Christ is the only thing that's going to change their lives," Rainey added. Restoration Ranch Ministries has been a tremendous success during the last couple of years, Rainey continued. "This is a win-win situation for society. It costs about \$40,000 to keep an inmate in prison per year, but with these jobs, these guys can make at least \$25,000 a year and that's enough for them to live on. They're not getting rich, but it's a lot better than the minimum wage jobs that most ex-convicts are able to get."

As for his own personal transformation, Rainey doesn't believe he'll find himself back in that situation he experienced after his first two stays in prison.

"I told the Lord that he's given me this vision, so if he'll let me do this, I'll commit myself to this for the rest of my life."

—John A. Moseley, managing editor

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Pat Fleming

Pat Fleming is of 2004. Fleming says she can't another couple

If you ask neighbor tell you is an as neighborhood doesn't see an ly special in she does. But all one drive by the and her hus bought four 509 Dallas an apparent her dening provi for passersby. When the retired a few they decided to live clos grandchildren That mea Austin, their years, and m Spring. There were tages to the n er. "We wanted from all the she explain you're retire fixed income ty taxes in A nightmare." However, admits there pleasant su store for the they arrived. biggest of th reception th from Big S

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Pat Fleming has blossomed in Big Spring



Courtesy photo/Jay Renee

Pat Fleming is pictured amid the flowers of her cottage garden during full bloom in spring of 2004. Fleming, who spends four or five hours in her yard per day at this time of year, says she can't wait until this year's wildflower crop and other blooms begin to arrive in another couple of weeks.

If you ask any of her neighbors, they'll tell you Pat Fleming is an asset to their neighborhood, though she doesn't see anything really special in the things she does.

But all one has to do is drive by the home she and her husband, Jim, bought four years ago at 509 Dallas and it becomes apparent her love of gardening provides a delight for passersby.

When the Flemings retired a few years ago, they decided they wanted to live closer to their grandchildren.

That meant leaving Austin, their home for 30 years, and moving to Big Spring.

There were other advantages to the move, however.

"We wanted to get away from all the traffic, too," she explained. "And if you're retired and on a fixed income, the property taxes in Austin are a nightmare."

However, Fleming admits there were some pleasant surprises in store for the couple when they arrived. Perhaps the biggest of those was the reception they received from Big Spring resi-

dents. "We love it here," she explained. "Everyone is so nice. People see us out in the yard and they stop and say hello. The friendliest people really do live here."

"In Austin, you don't really get to know as many people as you do here," she added. "There, you get to know the people you work with, a few of the people at your church and maybe one or two of your neighbors."

But here, I've probably met more people just being out in my yard than I've ever met before in my life."

Of course, at this time of year, Fleming spends quite a bit of time in her yard.

"I love the spring," she explained. "I love it when the days start to get sunny and warm up so that I can get outside and watch my garden grow."

Gardening isn't something Fleming took up in retirement, though. It's been her passion for years.

In fact, she says gardening has been a part of her life almost forever.

"My mom gardened ... gardened her whole life and she lived to be 103," she said. "So it'll always

be a part of my life, I guess."

She is also no stranger to being recognized for her gardening efforts. In fact, the Flemings won a number of beautification awards for her gardening when they lived in Austin.

However, Fleming says gardening in Big Spring poses challenges she never faced in Austin.

"It's a real challenge here compared to Austin," she said. "The biggest difference is that you don't have to water a garden there. That's not the case here. The key here is being able to pay your water bill."

The real challenge, however, was turning what had been a yard full of overgrown weeds into what it is today.

"It has been a lot of work," Fleming admitted. "When we first started working in the yard, people would stop by and talk about what it had looked like before we bought the house. I'd tell them I really didn't want to know. It was tough enough. There were some overgrown shrubs and trees and the yard ... well, there wasn't a lawn."

Now, in addition, the double lot the Flemings'

home sits on has a well-kept lawn that requires considerable mowing.

"It's a lot of yard to mow," Fleming added. "We put the circle drive in trying to cut down on how much grass has to be cut. We've got a 14-year-old grandson and it's about time for him to start taking on the mowing chores."

Of course, Fleming's favorite style of garden is less labor intensive than some.

"I prefer a cottage garden," she explained. "I love wildflowers and the old-timey flowers. I don't have a managed garden."

One would have a hard time believing that driving by the Fleming home this week, however, because a large flower bed at the front of their property is full of tulips with large plastic Easter eggs placed throughout the bed.

But that's a display that won't last long.

"The tulips will be gone in a couple of weeks, but then the wildflowers will be out," Fleming noted. "That's what I'm really looking forward to. They'll be pretty until the first of June."

"Spring is the best time for my yard because my cottage garden is full of wildflowers," she added. "I love the diversity. You just scatter the seeds and see what comes up."

"That's why I spend four or five hours a day in the yard during the spring," she continued, pointing to a backyard arch covered in thick yellow blooms from a climbing rose bush. "It's just awesome being able to be in the middle of nature's beauty."

While a health condition prevents Jim from helping her do the yard work, Pat says her efforts are something they both enjoy.

"He loves to sit out in the backyard and enjoy a good book while I'm gardening," she laughed. "He kids around and tells people he has a 'great yard person,' and then nods toward me."

Fleming does admit she wishes some organization in Big Spring would adopt

a program recognizing people who put a great deal of work into their lawns and gardens.

"It was a real incentive in Austin," she explained. "Obviously, I would be doing this anyway. But in Austin the nursery owners offered \$10 gift certificates to the winners and people were recognized in the paper. I think that got some people interested in gardening that might not

have otherwise."

What's more, Fleming is only half kidding when she claims there are other benefits to gardening.

"Gardening has untold rewards," she laughed. "You don't have to go to the gym, you don't have to diet and it's a great way to meet your neighbors."

—John A. Moseley, managing editor

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Fall prevention program a success for Nurses Unlimited clients

In spite of what the nursery rhyme says, there is no such thing as a "great fall" for seniors. Many live with the idea that falling, or the fear of falling, is a necessary part of the aging process.

Sandy Nease, RN, director of Nurses Unlimited's Skilled Care Division, says her company has developed a program to reduce the risk of falling and to empower families with a plan of action when a fall does occur.

"A fall is a very serious thing for a senior," says Nease. "It can result in broken bones, which can mean they may never walk again." Because they understood the serious consequences of a fall, Nurses Unlimited convened a committee to study what they could do to identify those at risk of falling, ways to reduce the risks and how to implement a response plan for when a fall does happen.

The committee, which involved representatives from all of the company's disciplines, spent four months in plan-

ning the program. After implementing it last January, Nurses Unlimited saw a one-third reduction in the number of falls by their clients.

The fall prevention program is usually instituted by a call to Nurses Unlimited by a physician, but a family member can request it also.

Nurses Unlimited sends an RN to the home to evaluate a number of factors that could contribute to the patient's risk of falling. Some of those factors include the physical environment - are there lots of throw rugs.

After implementing the program, Nurses Unlimited saw a one-third reduction in the number of falls by their clients.

grandchildren's toys or other obstacles; is the patient on medications that tend to cause dizziness, unsteadiness or muscle weakness; is there an untreated condition that could be contributing to fall, and others.

After the evalua-



Nurses Unlimited's fall prevention program enlists the help of their in-house physical therapists when needed. They are Ben Grimes, Diane Easter and Kathy Summers.

tion and with the approval of the patient's physician, Nurses Unlimited puts in place a plan of action. It could involve physical modifications, the help of an RN or an LVN, a Home Health Aide, physical therapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, social worker or dietician - all disciplines offered directly by Nurses Unlimited.

Because all these disciplines are under one roof, coordination of treatment is easy and requires no extra phone calls by families. Nease stresses that a large part of the program involves training the family members themselves. "We give information regarding medications, how to best

help the patient when to call for help and more," she says. "We understand that information itself gives families much peace of mind."

Nurses Unlimited can usually implement these services within 48 hours, or less. Someone is on call has enrolled patients on holidays when the need arose.

Reducing the risk of falling is one of the ways Nurses Unlimited helps clients stay safe and well in their own homes longer. If you have a family member who is at risk of falling, call Nurses Unlimited today.

Nurses Unlimited provides a wide range of home health services. Call the Skilled Care Division at 550-1700 or 1-800-270-8298.

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Delivering God's message in song

FSA Executive Director Rick Liles leads the music at Prairie View Baptist

Rick Liles may never be confused with a professional musician, but that's fine by him.

Liles is the executive director of the Howard County Farm Service Agency for most of the week, but when the congregation of the Prairie View Baptist Church meets, he picks up his guitar and dons the identity of music director.

At the farm agency, he can talk farm subsidies and loan programs with the best of them, but he doesn't want people thinking he's God's gift to the church's music program.

"I've owned a guitar for probably 30 years," Liles said, "but it's kind of like: You know there's a lot of people who can operate a welding machine, but they're not a welder? I'm kind of like that. I own a guitar, but I'm not really a guitarist."

With wife Debbie serving as vocalist and daughter Kacy helping out on bass, leading the church's music worship is very much a family affair for Liles.

"They're the bright spots in this whole thing," he said. "Both of them are a lot more tal-

ented than I am. I'm just very blessed to have them with me there."

Liles took a somewhat circuitous path to his position at the church. But, to hear him talk, the same thing led him to his professional career.

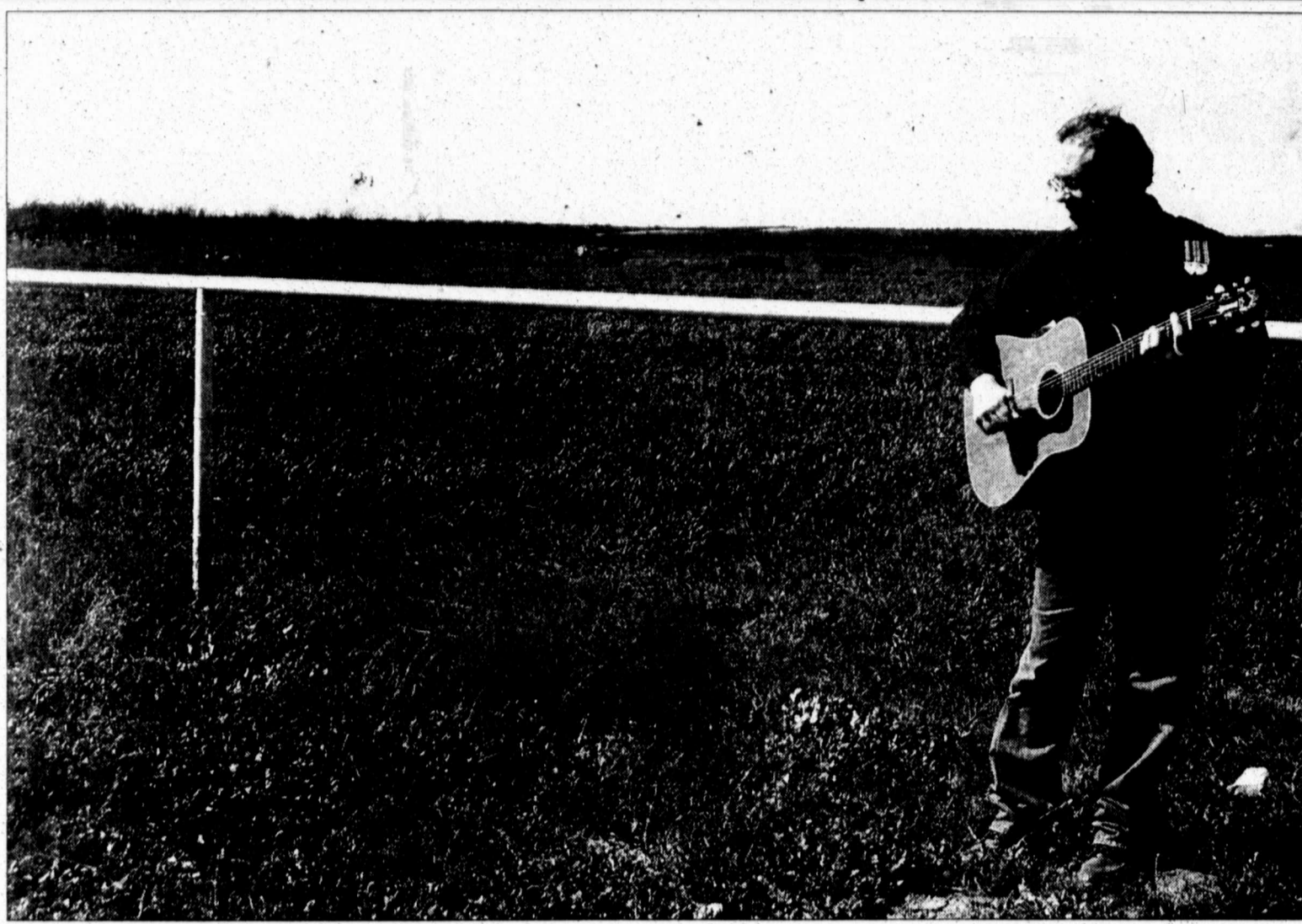
"I was just looking for a job," he said of landing at the farm agency. "They had a temporary vacancy, and I got a 90-day appointment. I've been doing it ever since."

Likewise, becoming music director at Prairie View Baptist could almost be described as a happy accident for Liles.

Liles and his family were attending a church in town when he temporarily filled in as music director. Soon after, he was approached by Prairie View Baptist officials about becoming the full-time music director there.

His initial reaction was to say no, he admitted, but instead told the officials that he and the family would pray over the decision. Soon after, he said, he felt the call to take up the post.

"They felt led to call us, and we felt led to go out there," he said. "And we've been out there ever since."



Rick Liles, executive director of the Howard County Farm Agency, doubles as music director at Prairie View Baptist Church, a position he's held for the past four years.

In four years at the church, Liles said the secret to his success is having as many people as possible to sing along with him — to help cover up his mistakes, he claims.

"I like to have a lot of people singing with me," he said. "There's safety in numbers, and all that."

In all seriousness, he said he struggled at first to become comfortable at his church post.

"It's something I put a lot of thought into these past four years," he said. "I constantly asked myself, 'What is this thing? Where does it fit in my life?' I finally deter-

mined that you just have to try and put your own signature on the music ... How can you lead someone in something that you're not comfortable with?"

"I did come to realize that it's not about just getting up and singing some songs — it's not all music and fun," he said. "There's the responsibility of getting people prepared for worship by leading them in music ... You've just got to do your own thing. If it doesn't fit well with the congregation, it just doesn't fit at all."

A typical music program at Prairie View

Baptist consists mostly of traditional hymns, with a few contemporary Christian songs added here and there, he said.

Even with traditional hymns, he said he'll present them in his unique way.

"They may be in a bluegrass rhythm, or in a more contemporary style," he said. "That's some of the ways I like to do them."

Even though he continually stresses that he's not a musician by occupation, it's clear that he enjoys his position at the church.

"The most rewarding thing about it ... is realiz-

ing what my responsibility is and understanding what the music director is responsible for," Liles said, "and ... realizing how to do the music the way I have to do it."



It's also apparent that he would very much like to continue leading the congregation in music.

"I'm subject to the desires of the church body. It may be out of my hands," he said. "But I'll continue as long as the church body ... allows me to continue leading it in music."

—Steve Reagan, staff writer

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How 'bout them 'Boys!

Roselia Ramirez is an avid, maybe rabid, Dallas fan

There are Dallas Cowboys fans and then there is Roselia Ramirez. And she is in a category of its own when it comes to "her" Dallas Cowboys.

Ramirez has been avidly following the Cowboys since the early 1970s. She has been through six coaches and five super bowls and has collected a lot of memorabilia on the way.

"My husband used to watch football on television and he would always watch Dallas," said Ramirez. "I guess I just paid attention, became interested and now I am a huge fan."

Her two favorite coaches are Tom Landry — the first coach she remembers — and Jimmy Johnson, but Ramirez has no problem with current coach Bill Parcells. She liked Chann Gailey and Dave Campo, but really didn't care for Barry Switzer.

Ramirez has attended three Dallas Cowboys training camps. She went to Austin in 1994 and went to back-to-back

camp in San Antonio in 2002 and 2003.

"I was in Cowboys Heaven with that," she said.

Most of the players are fun to be around, but some left sour tastes in Roselia and her family's mouths.

"The players are fan friendly for the most part," said Martha Vierra, Ramirez's daughter. "Except for Emmitt Smith. He wouldn't even acknowledge kids who were waving at him."

Roselia also said Leon Lett and Erik Williams were not the most pleasant people in the bunch, but said the nicest ones were Mark Tuinei, Bob Lilly, Randy White, Darren Woodson, Charlie Waters, Jay Novachek, Lincoln Coleman, Chad Hutchinson and Dat Nguyen.

"Jay is a super guy," said Roselia, "but Leon Lett was a disappointment. He was more interested in getting hooked up with a girl than signing autographs and talking to fans."

"Erik Williams was not nice and I could never get



Roselia Ramirez poses next to one of her walls in her room decorated with Dallas Cowboys pictures and posters.

close enough to Emmitt to talk to him or get his autograph."

Roselia has gotten signatures from about 20 Cowboys players in her time. And she even has multiple ones of some players.

"A lot of times they would give a limit on how many one person could sign so mom would take her grandkids along with her and get them to get something signed for her," said Vierra. "Half the time the kids didn't know what they were holding on to at they

were holding it for."

Ramirez's favorite moment involving an autograph session could have involved former-Cowboy Charlie Waters.

"I embarrassed him," said Ramirez. "He had done a half-naked pose once and then turned it into a poster and I had it. When I approached him to sign it, I pulled out the poster, rolled it out and his face just got bright red. But he was nice enough to still sign it though."

Ramirez never misses an opportunity to see

Dallas players if they visit nearby.

"If there is a Cowboy nearby you can bet I will be there to greet him and get something signed," said Ramirez.

Vierra added, "A lot of time she'll wander off if she sees someone, just so she can say 'hi'."

Another favorite memory involving the meeting of a player took place at a restaurant owned by former Dallas great Randy White. Both Vierra and Ramirez took a chartered bus to see a Dallas game against the Denver

Broncos and along the way stopped at White's restaurant to get something to eat. What they didn't expect was to see White there in person.

"Mom couldn't even speak," said Vierra. "She was in total awe and really couldn't even eat. She waited 45 minutes for Randy to start signing autographs and then used her place mat from the restaurant for something for him to sign. She was the first in line because she didn't eat and she car-

ried."

Continued on Page 8H



Pictures of Michael Irvin, Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith hang on Roselia's wall in her Dallas Cowboys room.

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ried on a conversation with him before he signed her white turtleneck. He was very nice."

And if you think Roselia is a fan at this point, you should consider checking out her house. It is at that point you will come to the conclusion that she is a fanatic.

Ramirez's house is silver with blue trim for starters. Her driveway has a blue metal sign that reads "Dallas Cowboys Drive" and the house number on the curb in front of her house is outlined in blue with a star on it.

"Her home attire is always her wearing a Dallas Cowboys shirt," said Vierra. "She is dressed for the season, but always has Cowboys stuff on."

Ramirez's family puts one decoration up for sure during Christmas time — a big blue star on

the top of their house.

And then there is her room — which is full of nothing (except for maybe two or three items) but Dallas Cowboy pictures, poster, hats, jerseys and other collectibles.

"I collect everything they sell and put it up in my room," said Ramirez.

Ramirez is hardly kidding when she says everything. Some of the items in her room include all five hats and shirts of Dallas' five Super Bowl teams. She has a piece of turf from the original Texas Stadium, which was in Irving from 1971-1980. She also has turf from the next Texas Stadium (1981-1996) and is looking forward to getting another piece of turf when the team gets a new stadium in Arlington around 2008.

She collects bags of chips, Oreo cookies and M&M's with Dallas

Continued on Page 9H



Roselia's collection of Dallas Cowboys mugs sits on the bottom of her entertainment center in her Dallas Cowboys room. HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

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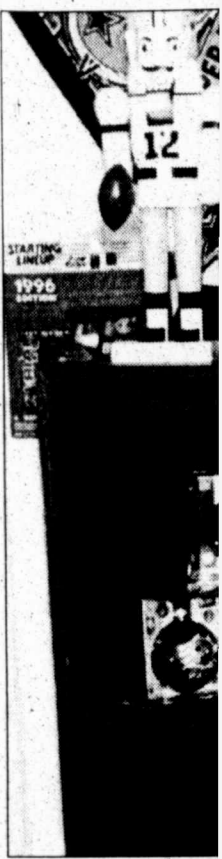
Cowboys logos on...
"My grandson's first bag of Oreos, so I had to get a bag," said Ramirez. "I want him to live but I want about it."

She started her collection at a slow pace. "Things have piled up lately. And she has others for that."

"A lot of my stuff is given to me by Ramirez. "People just see things and are out and about them for me. I have 20 percent of the stuff I have I got from elsewhere."

The list of items is long, but perhaps the most interesting story of them all is seeing Ramirez's collection grow over the years. Or not see it at all.

"No one is going to watch the game for her," said Vierra.



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Cowboys logos on them. "My grandson ate my first bag of oreo cookies so I had to get another bag," said Ramirez. "I let him live but I was upset about it." She started her collection at a slow pace, but things have picked up lately. And she can thank others for that. "A lot of my stuff is just given to me," said Ramirez. "People at work just see things when they are out and about and buy them for me. I would say 20 percent of the items I have I got from someone else." The list of items goes on, but perhaps the best story of them all could be seeing Ramirez on game-days. Or not seeing her. "No one is allowed to watch the games with her," said Viera.

Ramirez says that is because she doesn't like to hear people put her team down. "I can say bad things about my team, but I don't want to hear anyone else say bad things," she said. Good luck calling Ramirez on game days, as well. "She doesn't answer the phone or take calls when the Cowboys are on," said Viera. "And when they lose she doesn't talk to anyone." Ramirez even has ammo for referees if they make a not so good call against her team. "I have a bad call brick made of foam that I utilize frequently during games," said Ramirez. "I throw it at the TV a lot." Ramirez's all-time favorite Cowboy is Michael Irvin with Smith coming in a close second.

Her favorite current Cowboy is Pro Bowl safety Roy Williams. Her hated rivals include from most hated to least hated: Washington, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Green Bay. The Giants — who have been in the same division as the Cowboys for years — was surprisingly not on her list of rivals. "There's no rivalry with the Giants, I don't think," said Ramirez. "I don't hate them for some reason." The rivalry with Washington even extended into her workplace for quite a few years. Ramirez worked with Corey Marr, an avid Redskins fan, and they feuded quite a bit when the two teams met twice every year. "I used to work with him but he moved to Dallas," said Ramirez.

"We used to have a friendly bet going that if Dallas won he had to wear my jersey and if Washington won I had to wear his. I wore his jersey once and had a picture of it and everytime I see it I start to cry. But he had to wear my jersey more than I had to wear his." Ramirez has been to about 10 Dallas games in her lifetime. The first game she ever went to was in the late 1960s. The Cowboys played a San Francisco 49ers team, which featured O.J. Simpson in the backfield. The last Dallas game she attended was two seasons ago against the Giants. "It was cold, but the Cowboys won," said Ramirez. Last year was not a good year for Cowboys fans, but Ramirez is confident the team can get back to

domination. "I think Bill is a great coach but he needs to start winning or he won't be around very much longer," said Ramirez. Ramirez hopes the Cowboys use their first first-round draft pick on a cornerback and she also wouldn't mind having another running back to backup the promising Julius Jones. She also does not like the veteran quarterback approach the team has gone for the past two years. They used Vinny Testaverde last year and signed Drew Bledsoe this past offsea-

son. "I think last year was wasted because we weren't going to win with Vinny," said Ramirez. "I think Bill and Jerry should give Drew Henson a shot and see what he can do." Ramirez just bought a new car, as well. It is a 2005 Ford 500 and I bet you can guess what color it is. Yep, blue. "And it is going to have a silver star on the back of it soon, too," said Ramirez.

—Troy Hyde, sports editor



Several Dallas Cowboys merchandise items are displayed atop Roselia Ramirez's entertainment center. HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

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2005 Chevrolet 1500 4WD Z71 Crew Cab LS

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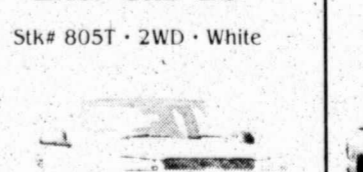


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(Ex. Stk# 58021T • 2WD, Crew Cab, LS) \$32,490 / MSRP - \$1000 / March Madness \$ - \$2000 / Pkg. Savings - \$1500 / Bonus Cash - \$2000 / Factory Rebate - \$2605 / Dealer Disc.

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Stk# 805T • 2WD • White

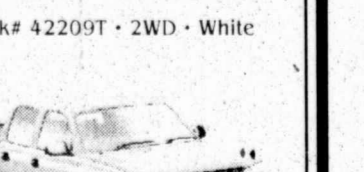


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